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Boy rescued in Burma's 1st documented kidnapping Normal (AP)

Policy resented a five

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suspects in the first orded kidnapping case modern Burma, the e-ewited new Light Of animal reported like me took place on Aug near Pangsang 800 mettes numberst of recon in the remote of the Burma-China der the five year-old , identified only Heart. reported missing by tather Kyaw Myint on 5. Iwo days latter he wed a nuison nor the kidnappen nese yuan (\$48,192) Aug 12, Kyaw Mym pped off bulgar year d by the kidnippers did not inform police of actions. The kidnappers a threatening letter of 16 demanding the

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PM asks for lists of staff needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on unday instructed ministries and government departments to submit lists of their actual needs for staff for the year 1996 to the secretaries general or department heads. In a circular, Sharif Zeid said the lists should be supported by job descriptions, organisa-tional structure and justifications for posts. These lists will then be forwarded to a special task force to he formed at the ministry or department levels to discuss the needs with heads of the administration units. The lists will then be forwarded to the hudget department no later than end of June for examination by a special task force grouping representatives of the Ministry of Administrative Development, the Civil Service Commission and the General Budget Department. The prime minister's circular, which sets out a mechanism for the creation of new posts, gives the task force the right to turn down requests for new posts, for lack of acceptable ustifications. The task force may also recommend that extra stuff from a certain ministry or department he transferred to other departments or ministries.



Syria tells U.S. no on Israeli demands

ABU DHABI (R) - Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad, in a rare 55-minute telephone conversation with President Bill Clinton. rejected Israeli security demands for the Golan Heights, an Arabic language newspaper reported on Sunday. "Syria does not want this peace which is linked to early warning stations on the Golan." Mr. Assad was quoted as telling the U.S. president, whose crumtry accuses Syria of supporting terrorism. In a despatch from Washington, Al Ittihad newspaper of the United Arab Emirates cited an Arab official in its report of the phone conversation. It did not say when it took place. In the clearest sign yel that tsraeli-Syrian peace talks are in serious trouble, the State Department on Thursday said Secretary of State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with State and Level and State Warren Christopher would see with the state of the opher would not visit Syria and Israel when he attends a Middle East economic summit in Amman later this month. The newspaper quoted sources as saying Washington was currently mediating to revive the stalled Syrian-Israeli talks and Mr. Christopher might meet his Syrian counterpart in New York next week.

Volume 19 Number 6047

Srour returns

AMMAN (Petra) - Lower

House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour and members of the House accompanying him Sunday returned nome after a several day visit to Bulgaria, during which Mr. Srour met with Bulgarian President Zhelev and the Speaker of the Bulgarian Peoples Assembly, in addition to senior Bulgarian officials on means of enhancing bilateral relations in the various economic, political and cultural fields. On his way back from Bulgaria, Mr. Srour made a stop over in Athens where he met the dean and members of the Arab diplomatic missions and Jordanian businessmen in the presence of Jordan's Ambassador to Greece Amiad Majali. Mr. Srour briefed them on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held here on Oct. 29.

JEA team to visit Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordan Electricity Anthority (JEA) delegation headed by Director General Mobammad Saeed Arafeb heads for Kuwait today to hold talks with officials at the Arah Fund for Economic and So-cial Development. The talks will focus oo financing a 130megawatt unit at the Aqaba thermal station project at a cost of \$90 million, Mr. Arafeh paid tribute to the fund and its support of energy projects in Jordan. He said the fund plays a majdr role in projects aiming to link the national electric grids of Jordan and Egypt, expected to cost 10.5 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$30 million).

Man shot in clash with police

AMMAN (Petra) - A policeman Sunday shot and wonnded an unidentified man after an attempt to hit a olice patrol in a car, Public Security Department (PSD) sources said. The sources said policemen patrolling one of Amman's suburbs sighted a car with foreign plates "in suspicious conditions." The sources added that the policemen attempted to stop the car for regular checks, but instead the car's driver attempted to hit the patrolmen. "One of the policemen had to shoot, thus wounding the passenger next to the driver in the other car," the sources continued. They said the injured was taken to hospital and that the prosecutor general started investigating

Sudan, Germany locked in row

KHARTOUM (R) - A row has broken out hetween Sudan and Germany over accusations by Bonn's envoy that Khartoum was killing students in prisons and detenan centres for taking part in anti-government demonstrations. Last week's dispute began when German Amhassador to Sudan Peter Mende told a seminar on geological research at the University of Khartoum — the hotbed of anti-government opposition the Sudan government was killing students it detained last month. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Col. Mende's remarks angered Khartoum Which said it would ask Ger-

'Battalion of death' yows to kill Mubarak

many to replace him.

CAIRO (AFP) — An unknown organisation, apparently of Islamic extremists, calling itself the "Battalion of Death" vowed to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mnbarak in a statement issued Sunday. In its fax entitled "We defy you, Mubarak, received by AFP, the group said it aimed to kill the presient for his "crimes" against the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples and his "anti-Islamic" policies. "The Battalion of Death announces that it will hunt Mubarak everywhere and his men will have no rest until we

have executed out mission."

Hizbollah bomb kills six Israeli soldiers in Lebanon

Israel blames Syria, vows retaliation

MARJAYOUN, Lehanon (Agencies) - Hizbollah guerrillas, stepping up attacks as Israel's peace talks with Lebanon and Syria languish, killed six Israeli soldiers on Sunday in their second fatal hombing in South Lehanon in four days.

In the bloodiest guerrilla attack this year, a roadside bomh destroyed an Israeli armoured personnel carrier packed with troops, setting it ablaze and killing six men and seriously wounding two pro-Israeli security sources

In Israel, the army said six soldiers were killed and one seriously wounded in the attack in the eastern sector of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone.

A similar blast in the zone last Thursday killed three soldiers and injured six. The Israeli army said the two attacks brought the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon this year to 22, more than in all of 1994 when 21 soldiers died.

A grim Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pointed a finger at Syria after the soldiers were killed, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called an emergency cabinet meeting.

"The escalation in Lebanon is very dangerous to all sides ... I want to address the uestion: Who can prevent this flare-up? There is no doubt that Syria must participate in preventing this flareup, the Lehanese government must participate," Mr.

Peres told Israel Radio. Israeli leaders regularly call on Damascus, the main power broker in Lebanon, to stop guerrilla arracks.

Sunday's blast followed an announcement that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will not visit Israel and Syria when he attends an economic summit in Amman this month — the latest sign that the peace talks are frozen.

It raised concern about Israeli reprisals and an increase in fighting in South Lehanon, the last active front line in the Arab-Israeli con-

Sources said Sunday's 6.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) amhush decimated an Israeli patrol on a narrow road near the village of Aishiyeh in the central sector of the so-called security zone. The guerrillas first deton-

ated a roadside bomb, then raked the Israelis with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons fire. Israeli artillery shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts and infiltration trails in ravines

near the attack site, the

sources reported. Helicopter gunships flew top cover while medical evacuation helicopters picked up the casualties. Israeli warplanes flew low over the area, hut made no bombing runs. An eerie calm settled over

the region as Israeli officials Hizhhollah." promised retaliation.

Hizbollah said in a communique that its guerrillas killed or wounded nine soldiers in "violent confrontations" Sunday.

The escalating hostilities in South Lehanon threatened to boil over into a major military collision.

A similar rash of deadly guerrilla attacks in July 1993 triggered a week-long Israeli air, sea and artillery blitz against guerrillas in which 150 people, mostly Lehanese civilians, perished

Hizbollah placed its fighters on maximum alert in the region Sunday, the security sources said.

Fearing an escalation, witnesses said residents of the village of 'Ain Al Tineh, three kilometres north of the enclave, closed shops and schools and took refuge in underground shelters or fled

There was no sign of any major population exodus from other villages in the

Uri Dromi, the Israeli government spokesman, warned: "As much as we're mourning on this, and as much as it's painful, we have ways to counter this type of terrorist

"We're determined not to let Hizbollah ... dictate anything in southern Lebanon. We're going to retaliate if and when we find it necessary ... it will be very painful for

Earlier this weekend, Israel's northern comman-der, Major General Amiram Levine, warned Hizbollah: " hope they have the sense and forethought not to force us more strongly to do even more damage to their villages, which as we've said, we don't want to attack."

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1995, JUMADA ULA 22, 1416

Hizbollah leaders warhed after Friday's attack that they were ready to fire rockets on northern Israeli towns if the Israeli army targets Lehanese civilians.

In Beirut, Sheikh Na'eem Qassem, deputy chief of Hiz-bollah, said retaliatory Israeli shelling on civilians areas in Lebanon "will be met by a fierce response on northern Palestine.

Asked if this was a reiteration of Hizbollah's policy of bombarding northern Israeli settlements with rockets when Israel shells civilianoccupied villages Sheikh Qassem told Reuters: "We will responded with all suitable

Sheikh Qassem said he did not expect Israel to launch a large-scale military operation against Hizbollah guerrillas. But Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah urged his fighters to be "at utmost readiness to face all possibilities on all front lines in the western Bekaa and South

Lehanon.

Israel military strategist Aharon Levran urged a (Continued on page 7)



Sajida Khairallah, wife of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, votes in Sunday's referendum on a new seven-year term for the president at a polling station in Baghdad (AFP photo)

Saddam wins 100% vote

From Serene Halasa in Baghdad with agency dispatches

SADDAM HUSSEIN won 100 per cent support in referendum held on an another seven-year term as president of Iraq, a senior Iraqi official announced late Sunday.

The result was announced by Izzat Ibrahim, vicepresident of the Revolutionary Command Council headed by President Saddam,

on Iraqi television. "One of my assistants did not want me to announce the results. but I must do it, hecause it is a fact," said Mr.

The official result of the referendum, seen as Iraq's

reply to assertions that the regime of President Saddam was wobbling after the recent defection of one of his closest confidants, was expected to be announced on Monday.

President Saddam was sole candidate in the referendum. The state-run media and officials had predicted that the nearby eight million voters would return him with

I00 per cent support. President Saddam, in power since 1979, was expected to address a message of thanks to the Iraqi people as soon as the overall result is

Iraqis say victory for Presi-dent Saddam would show the world that U.N. sanctions can never bring him down

him as a symbol of Iraq. Most of the voting in Baghdad was in public, in full view

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

of election officials. Voters ticked the "Yes" boxes on the hallot papers right on the registration table without bothering to use curtained booths and dropped them in the hallot boxes unfolded.

International observers said the voting seemed free and fair to them.

Observers toured the polling stations and said they saw hundreds of Iraqis voting in public, despite a formal commitment to a secret ballet. However, many Iraqis saw

the referendum was nothing (Continued on page 7)

Israel agrees to early withdrawal; self-rule

(Agencies) — Israel agreed on Sunday to accelerate its withdrawal from West Bank towns, clearing the way for Palestinian elections by Jan. 22, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat

announced after talks here. "The redeployment will begin on the 25th of October in Jenin," three weeks earlier than originally planned, Mr. Peres told a joint news conference after a two-hour meeting. "Our target is that the elections will be held before the 22nd of January.

Jenin, in the north of the West Bank, is the first of six Palestinian towns which the army is to quit under the self-rule deal signed in Washington on Sept. 28. Soldiers are to remain in the flashpoint town of Heb-

Christmas," he added.

Palestinians are to elect an

will be completed by the end of 1995, except in Hebron." Mr. Peres said, adding that Israeli troops would withdraw from Bethlehem before 'We agreed how to pre-

so that it will be a Palestinian

82-member council to run

Tuesday at the end of the Jewish holidays. The two ter-

ron to protect 400 settlers ritories have been sealed off living amid 120,000 Palesti-since Sept. 27 and Sept. 20

The PLO leader said they pare Christmas in Bethlehem

> Israel is to hold legislative elections in November 1996. The PLO chief described the meeting as "constructive. fruitful and very important." He added: "We discussed

(Continued on page 7)

elections in January

"The whole redeployment

Mr. Arafat said: "The election should take place before Ramadan," the Holy Month due to begin on or around

Bank and Gaza.

their own affairs in the West Mr. Peres also promised to lift the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on

respectively and Mr. Arafat complained it was costing the Palestinians \$6 million a day

had been anxious that the Palestinian self-rule elections 'should take place as soon as p-ossible so that they don't interfere with the Israeli election campaign.

many points, how to over-come all the obstacles."

The PLO had accused Israel of breaking the accord by delaying its West Bank redeployment and refusing to free all the Palestinian pris-

Fighting ebbs in Bosnia; focus shifts to refugees

BANJA LUKA. Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Fighting died down Sunday in northwestern Bosnia as aid workers tried to help up to 50,000 Bosnian Serbs who fled a government-Croat offensive that violated a nationwide cease-fire.

The U.S.-hrokered truce which began Thursday was largely observed throughout Bosnia by Sunday. U.N. spokeswoman Major Myriam Sochacki said in Sarajevo.

The offensive in the northwest by the Muslimdominated government and Croat allies reportedly had prompted the powerfulneighbouring country of Serbia to threaten to intervene. Government army commanders met for five hours in the Bosnian capital late

Saturday and dispatched a

senior officer to the hinerly

contested northwest. apparently to ensure that government troops there observed the truce, army sources said.

However. Bosnian Serb military sources cited by the Belgrade news agency Tan-jug claimed fierce fighting continued in the northwest Sunday, including govern-ment shelling of Serb-held Prijedor. There was no independent confirmation.

Many Muslims and Croats in the northwest hope to avenge reported atrocities by Serbs during the Serb takeover of the region in spring and summer 1992.

In a hitter irony of the 31/2-year war, tens of thousands of Serbs are now huddled and struggling to survive in Omarska, the site of one of the most notorious Serb prison camps in 1992.

heen treating civilians and soldiers wounded in the latest fighting, aid workers say. They report that people are dving, especially the elderly.

There is no reasonable

explanation for their dying except that they are exhausted." said John Sparrow of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Some of them have been uprooted three or four times as the front lines have come and gone. They have lost everything. They have lost hope. They are saving enough is enough. and they are giving up the ghost." Ms. Sparrow, speaking in Sarajevo on Saturday, did

(Continued on page 7)

not have exact figures of dead

or wounded. He said some of

the refugees are living in a



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REFERENDUM: Iraqi soldiers stand on a car decorated with a poster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and an Iraqi flag during a demonstration in Baghdad in support of the Iraqi leader ahead of Sunday's referendum (see page one) (AFP photo)

Maid 'cried with joy' for reprieve from execution

DUBAI (AFP) — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan "cried for joy" after the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for ber execution,

a diplomat said Sunday. "She was very happy. Tears rolled down ber face," the Philippine embassy's assistant labour attache, Carmelita Arriola, told AFP after breaking the news on Saturday to Balabagan at her prison in the city of Al 'Ain.

The young maid was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer

Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her. But the Baloushi family

told the Islamic court in Al 'Ain on Saturday that they had "relinquished their right to demand" her execution following UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan's "private endeavours." the court said.

Such efforts are customary when Islamic courts hand down death penalties, it added. But the courts, which are due to hold a hearing on Oct. 30, could still impose a

jail sentence on Ms. Balaba-

what can 1 do."
He said he told the appeals court he had agreed instead to accept 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in "blood money" in compensation for his 85year-old father's death in

the March hanging in Singa-

pore of another maid, Flor

Contemplacion, for a double murder. France also pro-tested over Ms. Balabagan's

But the court said the de-

"I just told the court I

velopment was "due entirely

to events within the due judi-cial process of the" UAE.

don't want the death sent-

ence," Baloushi's 24-year-old

son Faraj told AFP. "Sure it

was a difficult decision but

July last year.
Philippine ambassador to the UAE Roy Seneres thanked Sheikh Zayed "for his kindness and compassion in prevailing upon" the Baloushis to drop their demand.

Mr. Seneres had pushed for Ms. Balabagan's acquittal, supporting her argument that she acted in self-defence wben she stabbed Baloushi 34 times with the knife he used to rape her.

Meanwhile Philippine diplomats and Ms. Balabagan's parents Karim and Bai, who arrived in the UAE last week to attend appeals proceed-Baloushi home and thank Balabagan was 27 years old them on Sunday, the diplomats said.

"They're most welcome," Faraj Baloushi said, adding he liked the Balabagan family

The death sentence had when he saw them in court. sparked protests in the Phi-"They're modest people. They're kind. It's not their lippines, already angry over

> Ms. Balabagan's parents were present in the prison when their daughter was told she would not be executed.

They are expecting they can bring Sarah home soon, Labour Attache Danilo Croz said, adding that Ms. Balabagan had heard from a prison official she might be par-doned by Sheikh Zayed.

Philippines residents in Dubai were relieved by the

Anita, a 24-year-old Filipina who works in a hotel, said: "We were starred by the story of Flor Contemplacion. We are happy (Balabagan) will not be executed. I have many friends who work here for UAE families and are abused.

The death sentence was imposed in a retrial ordered by the UAE authorities. which cancelled a first verdict in June sentencing Ms. Balabagan to seven years in prison for manslaughter and ordered her to pay 150,000 dirhams in blood money.

The court also found that Balabagan had been raped and awarded her 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) in compensation.

The judges in the retrial heard new testimony saying she had not been raped. when she killed Balousbi. Ms. Balabagan said she was 15. although she arrived in the UAE on a passport listing her age as 28.

Triumphant Leader Museum in Baghdad displays rare weapons

BAGHDAD (AFP) - On the eve of a referendum to hand him seven more years in power, Saddam Hussein. inaugurated a huge museum dedicated to his life and stuffed with gold and gem-enerusted weapons from around the world.

The Iraqi leader on Saturday proudly strolled through the three-storey Triumphant Leader Museum, even though it is still not open to the public.

The building constructed after the 1991 Gulf war has an amazing display of everything from humble earthenware plates from an anonymous Zambian to gold swords from Gulf emirs and a well-worn rifle handed to the "great lead-er" by an Iraqi soldier on the Iranian front.

"Everything the president has received is here. because he wants to show that it belongs to the people and not to him," said director Walid Khaled Hamadi.

Everything, that is, apart from a stuffed bear offered by an American in 1994 which the director keeps in his office.

There is one weapons gallery containing more than 100 pistols and revolvers, 30 huming rifles, submachine guns, assault rifles and even a miniature rocket-propelled grenade

Once of the most recent pieces on show is an Asprey P228 pistol whose moving

parts are in gold. In other parts of the gallery there are rusty old guns from Yemen encrusted with precious stones, and antique Enfield rifles alongside modern U.S. firearms including a gold-plated Colt shotgun given by an "Iraqi

In the centre of the exhibition hall stand three large calibre gold-plated shells donated by the Iraqi military industrialisation organisation to celebrate the end of the 1980-1988

war againsi Iran. President Saddam has used many of the weapons. according to an official guide without saying what he bad been aiming at.

Further on are more than 100 swords and daggers glit-tering with gold and pre-cious stones.

Among them is a silver sword given to President Saddam when he was deputy leader of Iraq in 1974 by then French prime minister, now President Jacques Chirac.

Pieces of gold. silver. crystal, paintings, medals, decorations and ornaments of all shapes and sizes and from all over the world can be found in the museum's six other galleries.

Facts and figures on Iraq

Associated France Presse

ALMOST 19 million people live in Iraq, which on Sunday hold its first presidential referendum to approve Saddam Hussein as leader for another even-year term.

Some 4.5 million people live in Baghdad, while the country also has three million Kurds residing mainly in the three autonomous provinces of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. All three provinces have been excluded from the elections in which 7.5 million people are etigible

to vote. The state religion in Iraq is Islam, with about 55 per cent of the population being Shiite Muslims. There are also about a million Christians.

The Iraqi parliament or national assembly is composed of 250 members elected by popular vote.

Oil is the country's main resource, but since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 it has been subjected to an oil and trade embargo by

the United Nations Security Council.

A member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Iraq's proven reserves are estimated at 112 billion barrels while its gas reserves have been put at 7.5 trillion cubic metres. Before the 1991 Gulf war.

drove Iraqi troops out of neighbouring Kuwait. Iraq had a production capacity of 3.25 million barrels per day Western experts have put the country's military debt at more than \$100 billion, plus

hen a U.S.-led coalition

of Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait. Iran has also called for \$100 billion in damages for the bitter 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq

\$150 billion demanded by the

U.N. to compensate victims

Before the Gulf conflict Iraq was the strongest military force in the Arab World. Today its army includes 382,000 troops and 650,000 reservists, according to the annual report by the Londonbased International Institute

of Strategic Studies. Its land forces alone account for 350,000 men, including 100,000 reservists, seven divisions of the elite Republican Guard and 19 mechanised infantry divi-

Iraq also has 2,700 tanks, 900 light-armoured combat vehicles, I,500 reconnaissance armoured vehicles, 2,000 armoured troop transporters, 1,500 pieces of heavy artillery and 500 helicopters. including 120 equipped with weapons and some with Exocet air-to-surface missiles.

The navy has 2,500 personnel, with one frigate, seven patrol ships and four minesweepers.

For its part, the air force has 30,000 men with six bombers, 130 ground attack planes and 180 fighters.

There is also an important paramilitary force of 20,000 border guards and 4,800 security troops.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian defence minister to visit Iran

TEHRAN (R) - Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev plans to visit Iran in the near future, Iran's ambassador to Russia was quoted on Saturday as saying. Etelaat newspaper reported Mr. Grachev conveyed his intention to Iranian Amhassador Mehdi Safan in a meeting in Moscow on Thursday, Iranian and Russian officials were not available for comment. Mr. Grachev was quoted as saving Russia wanted to continue cooperation with Iran. "Russia will allow no country to decide partners for Russia," the minister was quoted as saying in an apparent reference to the United States. In recent weeks, Russia has had to defend its two contracts to build three reactors at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant against criticism from the U.S. and others who argue Tehran might use the technology 10 build a nuclear arsenal.

UAE sends \$11m in aid to Bosnia

DUBAI (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sent an additional \$40 million dirhams (almost \$11 million) in humanitarian aid to war-torn Bosnia, newspapers said Sunday. The money collected from individuals and humanitarian associations was the second batch of aid sent to Bosnian Muslims since a fundraising campaign in July netted \$44 million in the UAE.

UAE adopts death penalty for drug smugglers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday approved a law enforcing the death penalty for drug-traffickers, the official news agency WAM reported. Sheikh Zayed endorsed the law which also included intensified prison terms of up to seven years for drug abusers. The federal cabinet introduced capital punishment for drug smuggling earlier this year after a surge in trafficking operations. Police records showed more than eight tonnes of hashish, heroin, cocaine and other drugs had been seized over the past three years. Most of them originated from Pakistan. Afghanistan and Iran. Last week, the UAE created a high-level committee to combat drugs, grouping the deputy prime minister and intelligence officials along with the ministries of interior, education, information, and Islamic affairs.

4 children die trying to save pigeon

ALGIERS (AFP) - Four children aged between seven and nine were killed as they tried to save an injured pigeon sheltering in a dried out well, the official Algerian news agency APS reported Saturday. The children died Thursday in a well near Ghardaia, southern Algeria, the agency said. APS added one child, aged seven, and three others aged nine, climbed down into the well to rescue an injured pigeon. The side of the well collapsed as they were attempting to climb out, burying them under piles of earth, the agency said. The agency reported that hundreds of wells dug in the area to gather ground water have been abandoned after either drying up or becoming polluted,

Indian premier begins visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) - Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived on Sunday in Egypt for a 24-hour visit during which he will meet President Hosni Mubarak and sign a treaty on fighting terrorism, airport officials said. Mr. Rao was met at the airport by his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki, who he was to join in talks before meeting daily Al Ahram in an interview published on Sunday he would also sign accords on increasing scientific and media cooperation. between the two countries, Mr. Rao said his talks with Egyptian officials would also deal with "how to benefit from economic reform programmes" in both nations, calling for "increased economic cooperation between India and Egypt." The Indian premier and his delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Pranab Mokherjee, will leave for the Colombian city of Cartagena Monday to attend the 11th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Israeli singers welcome in Yemen — Iryani

TEL AVIV (R) - Yemen Foreign Affairs Mioister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said in an interview published on Sunday that Israeli artists of Yemenite descent would be welcome in his country. Dr. Iryani told Israel's Maariv newspaper he would try to organise a trip to Yemen for Israeli eotertainers Ofra Haza and Shoshana Damari, who are of Yemenite extraction, despite a lack of diplomatic relations between Israel and Yemen. "The Jews of Yemenite descent are our good oetwork in Israel and the United States," the minister told Maariv io an interview conducted in the United States. We permit freedom of movement for all Jews who remain in Yemen ... but full peace and direct trade will take place only within a compreheosive framework of peace with the Arab World that will include Syria," he said.

Iranian steward charged with hijacking

BEFRSHEBA (AFP) — An Iranian air steward who asked for asylum after forcing a plane to land in Israel was charged with hijacking on Sunday, legal sources said. A court in the southern town of Beersheba ordered Jabari Rizah, 30, to be remanded in custody until his trial, in Israel or the United States, has said he wants to convert to Judaism and marry a Jewish girl, since hijacking an Iranian Boeing 707 with more than 170 people on board on Sept. 19. The steward fired a bollet into the cockpit of a domestic Iranian flight heading to the Gulf holiday island of Kish and ordered it to head west, according to Israeli officials. The Israeli authorities authorised the plane and passengers to return to Tehran after it landed in the south of the country. ·Iran, which has accused Israel of involvement in the hijacking, wants his extradition and has appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organisation for help.

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WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions are Unstable weather continuous are expected to prevail, thus skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and winds south-casterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly

erday's high temperatures: nan 27. Aqaba 29 Humidity ings: Amman 36 per cent. USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

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AMMAN:	
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	649028
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	
Dr. Usamah Hussein	
Dr. Issam Al Asmar	ODOCO4
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Fires pharmacy	66 9 2
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Al Asema pharmacy	637055
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Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoujh pharmacy	677677
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Najib pharmacy	84/0,32
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Omari	272032
Alguds pharmacy	<u> </u>

ZARQA: Dr. Khalid Jabir
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
113121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
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American Musician Str.
Amman Municipality
Complaints
Telephone Information
[directory assistance] 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Queen Aliz Intl. Airpon 08-53200 HOSPITALS

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University Hospital
Al-Muasher Hospital
The Islamic, Abdaii 845845 The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital [09]983323 (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital [09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 Princess Basme Hospital Greek Cutholic Hospital .. |02|275555

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) .. Damascus (RJ) Jeddah (RJ) New Delhi (RJ) Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Aqaba (RJ) Beirut (RJ)

18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RI) 22:40 Bangkok, Jakana (RI) 22:45 New York, Amsterdam (RI) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 12:49 Muscal. Abu Dhahi (GF)

13:36
19:30
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1)

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Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

MARKET PRICES

5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

5:00 p.m. every Sunday

House mourns death of former Deputy Salman Qudah

AMMAN (Petra) - The speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday mourned the death of former Deputy member Salman Mohammad Qudah, who passed away on Sunday.

ONDAY, OUTOBER

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minister to visit I_{le}

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Office STORMS

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Mr. Qudah, who was born in Ain Janna, Ajloun, served as a member of the Lower House in three different terms in 1950, 1963

He was also a member of the National Consultative Council in 1978.

Mr. Qudah assumed various government posts, including provincial governor and district governor in several cities.

He joined the Jordan Armed Forces, and became an officer in 1946 after graduating with a law degree from Damascus University.

Mr. Qudah was a member of a national committee



Salman M. Qudah

entrusted with preparing the country's five-year development plan of 1986-

He also was a member of the Royal Commissioo charged with drafting the Jordanian Civil Code, and was an observer in the Palestinian National Couocil and a member of the Yarmouk University Board. potable water for next 100 years By P.V.Vivekanand British consultancy firm, Jordan Times Staff Reporter also included a seven-point

"action plan" outlining the AMMAN — A four-year steps to deliver up to 100 study has determined that mcm of water to Jordan the Qa-Disi aquifier in the through a pipeline. south can annually yield At present about 60 to 80 mcm of water from Qa-Disi 160 millioo cuhic metres

are used annually in the of potable water for Jordan south, mainly for agriculfor the oext 100 years, tural purposes, and the projected quantity of 80 to 100 mcm to be pumped to Amman is above the present consumption, said Shami Puri, project manager of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick. As such, Mr. Puri

explained, the total yield of the aquifier could be between 160 million and 180 mcm per year.

At present rates of consumption, that would mean about 20 per cent of Jor-

dan's total water consumption and more than half of the Kingdom's consumption of potable water.

Study says Disi can yield 160-180 mcm of

The initial study of the aquifier by Scott Wilsoo Kirkpatrick was launched in 1991 with an initial grant of JD 1.5 million chanoelled through the British government's Overseas Development (ODA).

The grant was complemented by equipment and vehicles worth JD 3.5 million donated during the visit in March this year hy British Prime Minister John Maior.

It also covered the cost of training eight Jordanian water engineers and experts in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Irsheidat, the minister, described the Qa-Disi

reservoir, which straddles the Jordanian-Saudi border. as part of Jordan's strategic water resources "with great future potential," and said the British offer to 1989 to finance the study came "at

the right time." "It is a very important project for Jordan, which is facing water problems," the minister said in hrief comments at Mooday's ceremooy. The next step in exploiting the acquifier, be said. was laying a pipeline to Amman.

The Jordanian governmeot intends to submit to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit the pipeline project, with options opeo for the private sector to invest in it either through "build own and operate" or "build, owo

The estimated total capital cost of the project is \$405 million, of which 70 per cent is being sought from external sources,

according to a project som-

mary made available to the

and transfer" arrangements.

Jordan Times. A feasibility study oo the pipeline project, being conducted hy an American-British consortium, is expected to be ready hy

April 1996. The Jordanian governmeot financed the nearly \$1 millioo study.

Ambassador Hincheliffe told the gathering at the handing over of the Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick report that the British government hoped that the findings of the study will be an "important contributor to meeting Jordan's water needs."

According to Mr. Puri, the project manager of the study, the assessmeot that the acquifier could yield betweeo 160 millioo and 180 millioo cubic metres of water per year took into account the present 600 millioo-cubic-metre-peryear Saudi exploitation of the reservoir and the possihility of increases in Saudi

use of the reservoir. Qa-Disi water described as the oldest fossil water oo earth dating hack to 35,000 years.

A study conducted hy United Nations experts suggested last year that the water could be bottled and marketed as "God's own water" since oo fossil reservoir older than Qa-Disi has beeo uncovered anywhere.

Judge agrees to postpone trial of 'Islamic Revivalists'

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The attorney for six people accused of sabotage asked the State Security Court Sunday to postpone their trial to allow them time to present a written statement contesting the court's jurisdiction over the

During a five-minute session Presiding Judge Hafez Amin read ont the charge

sheet which incloded illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials for illicit use.

When Judge Amin asked the six defendants how they pleaded, attorney Kamal Nasser demanded to postpone the case.

Judge Amin conceded and set Oct, 30 as the new date to hear the defence. According to the prosecu-

tor general's charge sheet, the group, known as the

Revivalists" which started gathering its members in 1990, was planning to carry out attacks against foreigners in Jordan using explosives and automatic weapons.

(mcm) to 180 million mcm

plugging a major gap in the

The main focus of the

finding was announced at a

ceremony held at the Water

Authority of Jordan (WAJ),

where the final report of the

study was formally present-ed to Minister of Water and

Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat

by British Ambassador

study, conducted hy Scott

Wilson Kirkpatrick, a

British-financed

Peter Hinchcliffe.

Kingdom's water oeeds.

The group was apprehended before perpetrating any attack. The Central Intelligeot were tipped off on March 10, 1995 about the group's activities.

Werner Bärtschi to ponder and play

By Jean-Claude Elias Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory/Noor-At Hussein Foundation and the Embassy of Switzerland m Amman have invited a very special pianist to perform in Amman.

Werner Bärtschi is an artist who is constantly questioning the concert approach, searching for mar Schoeck, be will play ways to make it more sponcommunicative tions: an Étude-Imprompm

and natural.

Every aspect of the performance, whether technical or aesthetic is rethought.

A known musician, pedagogue and interpreter of a vast repertoire, Werner Bärtschi is also a composer. In addition to works by Anton Webern, Frederic Chopin, Sergei Prokofiev. Robert Schumann and Othand Fruhmorgens am Daubensee.

In 1983, Mr. Bärtschi woo the coveted. Freoch "Grand Prix do Disque." awarded by the prestigions Academie Française, for his exceptional recordings.

The concert will take place at the Amman Baccalaureate School theatre, tonight at 8:00, and is a presentation of Pto Helvetia Arts Council of Switzer-

News in Brief

two of his own composi-

Government asked to prepare 1996 staffing requirements

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister

Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday issued a circular asking all ministries and government departments to prepare as staffing needs list for 1996. The documents should include an organisations structure, job descriptions and justification for the additional staff requirements. The circular said the documents should be submitted to the secretaries general or department heads, as appropriate. The documents will be forwarded to task forces for discussion with heads of the respective administration units, and then forwarded to the Bodget Department oo later than end of June, 1996 for review hy another task force.

UNESCO seeks to establish special regional office

AMMAN (Petra)—Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultur-

al Organisatioo(UNESCO) representative in Jordan Abdul Qader Atrash Sonday discussed the possible establishment of a regional office within the UNESCO Amman office to handle cultural matters in the Arab region. According to UNESCO officials, Jordan and UNESCO will sign an agreement on establishing the new office in the next two months. The two officials also discussed Jordan's participation in the UNESCO general meeting in Paris due to start on Oct . 25. Also Sunday, Mr. Rawabdeh met with Dorrit Stahl, the new area director of the United Nations Cildreo's Fund (UNICEF) to discoss the agency's projects in comprehensive education in the Arab World. Mr. Rawabdeh urged UNICEF to link its projects in Jordan with the country's own comprehensive educational schemes to improve the quality of life in the less fortunate areas. Mrs. Stahl said UNICEF is creating a regional task force on comprehensive education and requested that Jordan oame its representative in this task force. Discussions also covered prospects of UNICEF providing assistance to Jordanian schools in rural regions, especially om transportation and health services for

PIANO RECITAL By Swiss pianist Werner Bartschi at the Amman Baccalaureat School Theatre at

FILMS

"Tout Ça . . . Pour Ça," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00p.m.

'Polish film, "Love in Germany," at the Phoenix Gallery, at 7:30 p.m.

Dialogue on Yemeni music with Dr. Nizar Ghanem ata the Phoenix Gallery, at 6:30

LECTURE

"Golding's Lord of the Flies," at the British Council, hy Dr. Nicholas Linfield at **EXHIBITIONS**

*Paintings by Janet Venn-Brown at Alia Art Gallery

* Works by Luis Azcarate at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.

*A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

*Graphic design hy Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um

*Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.

* Selected works hy the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel Inter-Continental.

Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural

Children fault authorities for 'inattention' to child abuse

By Lola Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of concerned children has criticised the government for what it sees as a lack of attention by officials to the issue of child abuse.

Khulud Juitem, the 15year-old chairperson of a ooe-day worksbop oo "Vio-leoce Against Children, compared statistics from the 1985 to 1989 against 1990 to 1994 on the rate of reported incideots of domestic violence taken from the Criminal Investigation Statistical Departmeot,

What she found was that the cases had more than doubled. The comparison between both periods showed an increase from 210 cases to 477 cases.

Equally, if not more alarming, Khulud said the figures also showed that 50 per cent of the children were killed as a result of domestic violence, and the rest were sexually abosed or were the victims of attempted murder.

Lawyer Sawsan Ishaq, representing the Jordanian Woman's Union (JWU) at the workshop, supported the children's arguments and said that Jordanian laws designed to protect childreo are not enforced.

"For example, the International Convection oo the Rights of the Child, which Jordan signed and therefore is obligated to enforce, is not implemented because two of its articles talk about abortion and adoption, which are practices opposed by Islamists,

Children, who participating in the workshop alongside officials, told experts from the Ministry of Education and the Public Security Department, as well as lawyers that they were doing a poor job in prevent-

ing child abuse.

An 11-year-old boy described to police officer Hussein Arabiyat incidents in which police physically abused children.

The participant said that in order to stop a fist fight, at the King Abdullah Gardens, which he himself bad witnessed, police officers repeatedly slapped a young boy, without granting him the chance to explain.

In another case, he added, police officers did not iotervene to stop a fist fight. Instead, he said, the officers started encouraging the fight by cheering them on. Many of the children

prevent, or curtail, domestic violence. In reply, Ms. Ishaq said the law includes an article that gives the family the right to discipline their children, while police can only

interfere if the abuse results

One solution to the prob-

inquired about laws that

in the child being hospitalised. Even in these cases, she added, childreo are too afraid of their families to tell authorities the truth.

lem, she said, was that childreo should have access to centres specialised in dealing with abuse, where professional advice can be obtained. Unfortunately, these ceotres are oot avail-

continues within his/her family circle the child should be placed with foster families."

ages, Ms. Ishaq said.

scar on his elbow. He explained that his

father, clinically diagnosed as mentally handicapped, had pushed him towards a window, and that the broken glass penetrated his flesh deeply enough to expose the bone.

er came home that the child

Fear of being "butchered" kept Ahmad from telling officials the truth.

who read the father's med-

a catalyst in developing difders in children. He said children exposed to violence become violent

able in Jordan, she said. "If abuse against a child

At present the only other options for shelter for victims of abuse are orphan-

Ahmad, a 12-year-old, revealed a ten-ceotimetre

It was not until the moth-

"The father spent some time io Fuhais Psychiatric Hospital, but was released because the hospital deemed him fit to return bome. But I think be should go hack (to the hospital) because he is a danger to his children," said Feryal Saleh, director of the Centre for Social Development,

ical report. Psychiatrist Mohammed Khalaf said that violeoce is ferent psychological disor-

themselves. Eleveo-year-old Manal. Ahmad's eldest sister, still cannot read or write. She told the Jordan Times that whenever ber father beats

goes to school and beats her schonlmates. She has been expelled

her with an iron chain, she:

from several schools. "Late at night, I think about why I hit them. 1 know they don't deserve it," she said.

Manal's connsellor for the past two years, who asked not to be identified, said the only way to save Manal is to put her in an orphanage, where her father can not reach her.

Childreo who are forced out into the streets to beg hy their families are also suf-

fering abuse. Police officer Arabiyat said although this is the responsibility of the ministry of social development, police officers do cooperate

with the ministry. "Children are picked up from the streets and are sent to the ministry where their cases are studied, and depending on the situation, a monthly income is pro-vided for the family," he

Families canght sending their children to beg oo the streets are fined JD 2, the officer said.

If the child is repeatedly

picked up hy the authorities, he or she might be taken from the family and placed in an orphanage, he added.

Mothers attending the workshop told the Jordan Times that although they believe that street and school violence should be dealt with, they did not consider corporal punishment as abuse, but rather as a form of "family guidance."

They said they were worried that an open discussioo of this kind might create a rift between children and their families.

All 50 children who participated in the event conducted their own research on street, school and domestic violence.

They also studied the Jordanian law on the child's right and have met with peers who themselves have

At the end of the workshop the children presented their recommendations. which included: —An awareness campaign

to inform children of their rights, should be introduced in childreo's programmes on JTV and to be included in the school syllabus.

-Parents and police officers should be involved in seminars designed to explain the effect of violence oo developing the child's personality.

—A compulsory course on child psychology for teach-

French fables from an oriental past painted by oriental artists of today

By Beatrix Immenkamp Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibitioo of illustrations of fables of the French writer La Footaine in memory of the 300th anniversary of his death is drawing to a close at the Freoch Cultural Cen-

tre in Amman. The aim of the exhibition oo "The Oriental Sources of La Fontaine" and the accompanying book is to show the extent to which La Fontaine relied on inspiratioo from oriental culture, according to the organisers.

The author of poems, songs, drama pieces, stories, opera librettos and a novel, who is considered one of the greatest French writers of the 17th century, is best remembered today for his fables, vignettes of morale and social satire in which animals speak and

act like human beings. The latter half of La Fontaine's 240 fables were inspired by "orieotal sources", in particular the book of Kalila and Dimna, also known as the Book of Animals, which was translated ioto Arabic from Indian and Persian by Ibo Al Muqaffa around the 12th

century. The 19 paintings exhibit-ed at the French Cultural Ceotre in Amman are the works of two Iraqi artists living in Jordan who were commissioned by the centre to illustrate some of La Fontaine's "fables of oriental origin".

Commenting oo the origin of the book accompanying the exhibition, Gérard Martinez, director of the French Cultural Centre, told the Jordan Times: "work on La Footaine's fables of oriental origin revealed the close resemhlance of some of them to stories in Kalila and

Dimna. At that point, my wife Marie and I had the idea of publishing a book where La Fontaine's fables would appear alongside the original stories which inspired them."

The result is a large book, beautifully illustrated with the 19 paintings of Iraqi artists Lamia Abdel-Sahih and Samer Ousama, where La Fontaine's stories, in French, appear side hy side the original stories in

Kalila and Dimna, printed in Arabic.

"In the appendix, La Footaine's stories are prioted in Arabic and the stories from Kalila and Dimna appear in Freoch, allowing French readers access to the stories from Kalila and Dimna and Arabic readers access to the stories of La Footaine" Mr. Martinez

The idea behind the book is to huild a bridge between the two cultures, Arab and French, showing the exteot to which one influenced the

According to Mr. Martinez, the hook will also be distributed in France, where it will have the specific benefit of helping young people from North African countries living in France realize that their Arab culture is important to Freoch culture, as well as making French youngsters understand that a famous French author was inspired

hy Arabic sources. The exhibition, which will close on Tuesday, will travel to Beirut. Nantes (France), Cairo, Riyadh, Ahu Dhabi and Doha over



The fish and the cormnran, by Lamia Abdel-Sahib

the next mooths. An exhibidon of the works of Iraqi paioter

Shaker Hassan Said will open at the French Cultural Ceotre on Wednesday.

German

CDU

wonders

about the

post-Kohl

era

BONN (R) - Helmut

Kohl's Christian Democ-

rats (CDU) open their

annual congress Monday

sn overshadowed hy the

German chancellor that the

party's 10p maverick has

warned it against develop-

Heiner Geissler, a long-

time Kohl rival who heads

the CDU's liberal wing,

angered many colleagues

with his overblown analo-

gy and may lose his post as

vice-chairman of the party's faction in parlia-

His criticism, thnugh,

struck at the heart of the

CDU's problem. Now 13

years in power, the party is

so far ahead in the polls

that it can look forward to

ruling into the next century

- as long as Mr. Kohl, 65.

But what happens when

be's gone? How should the

party prepare for the post-

Kohl era? Several CDU

thinkers more tactful than

Mr. Geissler are asking the

"The CDU cannot

become a party with a

Fuehrer cult fixed on one

person," Mr. Geissler declared last week in the

Third Reich parallel that

prompted protests from fel-

"Otherwise, it would

burst like pricked balloon

when that person is no

longer there," he told the

Recent opinion polls sup-

The CDU, with its CSU

sister party in Bavaria,

could win an absolute

majority of parliamentary

seats if an election were

held today. It leads the dis-

by 45 to 32 per cent, the

electoral research group

But asked if it would do

as well without Mr. Kohl,

65 per cent of those queried

said no. Even more telling,

78 per cent of CDU mem-

bers surveyed agreed their

party would be worse off

without the veteran leader,

the Forsa polling group

"Nobody will talk openly

about Kohl's future at the

congress," predicted one

CDU official who, like

many others in Bonn,

assumes hut is not sure that

Europe's longest-serving

leader will seek reelection

in 1998. Mr. Kohl refuses

The three-day meeting in

Karlsruhe, the southwest-

ern city where Germany's

Supreme Court stands, will

indirectly address the issue

Wednesday when it votes on introducing quotas for

women and party primaries

Mr. Kohl, concerned that

CDU support is weakest

among younger women,

wants one-third of all party

posts and candidate slnts

reserved for female mem-

bers. This is expected to

pass despite strong doubts

among the conservative

He is less enthusiastic

about the primaries pro-posed by CDU General

Secretary Peter Hintze tn

make the party more open

to its grass roots and thus

more attractive for new

The CDU's powerful par-

liamentary leader Wolfgang Schaeuble and

several cabinet members

A younger generation of CDU leaders now rising in

the ranks of state politics

wants to go beyond these

"The party leadership

isn't flexible enough to

make the CDU ready for

the challenges of the next

century," says Ole Von Beust, 40. CDU leader in

Hamburg's city hall. "Too

many people there want to

rest on Kohl's laurels."

also oppose primaries.

cautious reforms.

male majnrity.

members.

to pick future candidates.

reported.

to comment.

port Mr. Geissler's con-

weekly Die Woche.

ment because of it.

stays at the tnp.

same questions.

low deputies.

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ing a "Fuehrer cult."

Russian planes bomb Chechen villages after talks collapse

Russian warplanes have bombed villages in southeastern Chechenya killing 17 penple, in what Checben separatists said Sunday was a show of "cruelty" hy the new Russian military commander, a week after a bomh attack which maimed his predecessor.

Checben independence fighters quoted Sunday by Moscnw Echn radin station said the raids carried out Saturday against the villages of Dargo and Belgatoi had also left at least 23 people wounded.

Mnvladi Udugnv, spokesman for the self-proclaimed Chechen independent gnvernment, said eight war-planes and six MI-24 helicopter gunships took part in the sequence of three raids on the villages which lie in an area which Russian troops have so far failed to enoquer in their 10-month hid to crush Chechen sepa-

"According to a first available information, the raids left 17 dead and 23 wounded, including eight seriously hurt," Mr. Udugov told Moscow Echo.

Dargo is the stronghold of Chechen warlord Shamil Bassayev wbo gained world-wide ootoriety for leading a bloody hostagetaking operation in the deadlock after the suspen-

DHAKA (AFP) — Amidst

new attempts to bring the

prime minister and opposi-

tion leader to the negotiat-

ing table, Bangladesh

braced for new violence in a

four-day general strike from

Monday against the govern-

Thousands of people fled

Dbaka, some calling it a "strike boliday," while those remaining in the capi-

tal took precautions against

Newspapers said those

wealthy enough were going

abroad, especially to neigh-

bouring India, and most

others to liomes ontside

"People are gripped by

panic, fearing violence dur-

ing the strike," said the

mass circulation Janakantha

But the newspaper high-

lighted hopes for moves by

diplomats and and a group

of eminent citizens to end

the 18-month political crisis

Dhaka,

daily.

ment of Khaleda Zia.

nnovsk in June.

However Mr. Bassayev was not in Dargo Saturday. He was in Shali, a town about 30 kilometres south of Grozny, where he burst intn a "round table" organised by a pro-Russian Chechen group, to call for reconciliation among Che-

In Moscow, the Defence Ministry refused to either confirm or deny the Chechenya raids, Interfax News Agency said.

In another incident related by Mr. Udugov, "four people — three women and a girl — were killed at a Russian checkpoint on the road ont of Barnut" in western Chechenya when their car came under a hail nf automatic fire.

However Interfax quoted him as saying: The Chechen side has never renounced and will not give up nn reconciliation."

A week ago, 28 people were killed in air raids on Roshni-Chu in western Chechenya but Moscow denied that Russian forces were responsible and said planes "from Azerbaijan"

had attacked the town. The difficult peace process hegun in Chechenya as a result of the Budennovsk tragedy has run into

campaign to force Mrs. Zia

Zia Saturday called on opo-

sition Awami League chief

Sbeikh Hasina Wajed, and

other rivals, to bold talks

instead of resorting to anti-

office, parliament or any

other place" to end the cri-

sis, she told a rally in the

northern district of Natore,

state-run Bangladesb Tele-

This strike will be the

longest in a series called by

the opposition in support of

its demand that Mrs. Zia

resign and allow elections

under a caretaker govern-

ment. Nearly all have been

stens of behind-the-scenes

pressure to end the political

A group of eminent citi-

zens that has met Mrs. Zia

also held talks with Mrs.

But there are growing

marked by clashes.

"Come, let us talk at my

government action.

vision reported.

Prime Minister Khaleda

to stand down.

Thousands flee Dhaka ahead of new strike

Russian town of Bude- sion of talks on implementdemilitarisation accord reached on July 1.

The talks were hroken off early last week following the Oct. 6 bomb blast in Grozny in which the former commander of Russian forces in Chechenya, General Anatoly Romanny was badly injured.

His successor General Anatoly Shkirko took over Thursday.

Mr. Udugnv said the raids nn Dargn and Belgatoi were Gen. shkirko's way of "showing his cruelty" after the attack nn Gen. Romanny.

'We don't believe Russian nfficers when they say they had nothing to do with these attacks. In fact, the Russian troops bave not stopped their military actions and are supported by artillery and aviation," the Chechen spokesman said.

On Friday, President Boris Yeltsin said he "would not veer from the path of peace" in Chechenya despite the attack on Gen. Romanov.

"The federal government will not veer from the path to peace laid down for a settlement of the Chechen question, even if (Chechen independence leader Dzhokhar) Dudayev is pushing ns in other directions," Mr.

cal sources, in an attempt to

stop the crisis deepening.

The sources said they could

meet the prime minister

The Daily Star newspaper,

without giving details, said

the acting general secretary

of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Abdul Manan Bbuiyan, and Home

Minister Abdul Matin

Chowdhury met late Saturday with the mayor of

Dhaka, Muhammad Hanif,

and a senior Awami League

On top of popular fears

over the loss of life and

property in the cbaos, the

business community is

increasingly concerned at

Salman Rahman, presi-

dent of the Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry

told a seminar that politi-

cians could face the wrath

of the people. "The silent

majority are waking up," he

the effect on the economy.

again at any time.

leader.

European mission monitoring Russia's war in breakaway Chechenya Saturday condemned bombing strikes on a village he visited ont-side Grozny, calling them nnjustifiable.

Sandor Meszaros, lead representative in the Chechen capital for the Organisatinn for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said he was shocked by what he saw the previous day in Roshni-Chu, west of Grozny.

Despite repeated Russian denials of aerial attacks on the village last Sunday, Mr. Meszaros confirmed to inurnalists at a Grozny news conference that a bombing strike had occurred.

He saw dozens of destroyed or damaged houses, told of the reported deaths of 28 villagers, and said residents tald him the Russians had attacked in eight assault planes, dropping bombs, firing from submachine guns and firing several dozen missiles.

"I do not know whether there were militants in the village or not, but such an action cannot he justified," Mr. Meszaros was quoted by the Interfax News Agency as saying.

"The politicians are

increasingly losing their respect by their actions

which is a power struggle at

the cost of the nation," said

one businessman, request-

The opposition maintains it would bold talks and

allow Mrs. Zia to complete

her five-year term if she

agreed to let a careteker

government oversee the

next general elections due

Mrs. Wajed's party and

other opposition groups -

the Jatiya Party of jailed

former President Hussain

Mubammad Ershad and the

Muslim fundamentalist

Jamaat-E-Islami - re-

signed their parliamentary

Opposition MPs say fair

polls were impossible under

Mrs. Zia. But the prime

minister has rejected the

demands as "unconstitu-

tional," though she says she

would step down 30 days

seats in December.

ing anonimity.



Former Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi (right) meets with South African President Nelson Mandela in

Savimbi regrets his 1992 return to war

LUSAKA (Agencies) -Angolan former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said bere Sunday that he regretted plunging his country back into civil war in 1992, saying that if he had been as committed to peace then as he was today, a resumption of hostilities could have been avoided.

At the end of a tour of southern Africa to promote his new image as a man of peace, Mr. Savimbi told a press conference that he no longer felt disappointment at not being elected president in 1992.

He said he was happy with the post he has been offered.

"I am not disappointed with the turn of events but what I regret deeply in my 37 years of fighting, is the fighting we began in 1992, because this could have been avoided bad we exhibited the same political will as today," said the 61-yearold leader of the main opposition National Union for the Total Independence

of Angola (UNITA). He added: "The highest office in our country is to have peace, my troops and officers have all accepted that it is better we play a constructive role other than to have the post of presi-

dent". Mr. Savimbi shattered Angola's bopes for peace when he went back to a bash war after rejecting UNITA's loss in general and presidential elections in 1992 though they had been declared free and fair by the

United Nations. After the Lusaka protocol for peace signed here last November, he has been offered the second vice presidency of the country by his war-time rival President Jose Eduardo Dos Santns, in a government of national unity to be set up in January.

four cabinet and seven deputy ministerial posts. Mr. Savimbi has been visiting some southern African states to seek support for his commitment to peace and confidence in the

UNITA will also have

ment,

n't need them anywhere," Press Television after meeting Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Savimbi met Mr. Mandela during his swing through southern African countries

Mr. Savimbi refused in the APTV interview to condemn Mr. Mandela's government for allowing the mercenaries to operate, but

"It is a fact that no one

with Mr. Mandela was largely ceremonial and followed more substantive talks Friday with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Pretoria (AFP photo)

almost all stages. He returned to his Bailundo headquarters of the central Angolan highlands saying be was a "very happy and satisfied" man and his tour had enriched his relations with southern African heads-of-govern-

Mr. Savimhi Saturday called the presence of South African mercenaries on Angalan soil "an embarrassing problem" for President Nelson Mandela's government.

"The fact is that we Angolans don't need mercenaries in our country at this stage, and the South African government does-Mr. Savimbi said in an interview with Associated

A South African compahas recruited former members of the apartheid-era armed forces who fought in busb wars in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique to train - critics say lead - combatants in Angola and Sierra Leone.

In Angola, the mercenaries are credited with tipping the balance in favour of President Dos Santos' army last year and forcing Mr. Savimbi to sign a new peace accord.

said that the situation should he "eased."

can approve of mercenaries anywhere on the African continent," Mr. Savimbi said. "These activities are contrary to the spirit of peace and reconciliation in the region."

Mr. Savimbi's meeting

Lusaka protocol which is Mr. Mandela's main diplorunning behind schedule at matic troubleshooter. Russia to sell its single

Fleet since 1990. It is capable of carrying up to 50 SU-27 and MiG-29 fighter jets and has a displacement of nearly 70.000 tonnes.

official with the state arms-trading company Rosvooruzheniye who said Russia intends to sell it to India, although South Korea and other countries also have

Three smaller carriers of an older type - the Kiev, Minsk and Novorossiisk - have been mothballed in recent years, and the navy officials have announced they would be sold for scrap. Another vessel of the same type, Admiral Gorshkov, is now under repairs and also offered

15 make stage 3 of Chopin Competition

WARSAW, Poland (AP) --Three Russians, three Italians and twn Americans are among 15 qualifiers for stage three of the prestigous Frederic Chopin Competition for young pianisis, the announced. The announcement reduces the field for the \$25,000 prize from 130 in the Oct. 2-22 competition. "I am very excited and very happy. It's n relief at least," said Gahriela Montero of Miami, one of the two Americans. "You can relax a bit (in the next stage). There are very difficult pieces, hut very expressive," said the 25-year-old Venezuela-born Moniero. The competition, first held in 1927, pays homage to the 19th-century Polish-born composer and typically launches international careers. Full of temperament and praised by critics. Montero said she was looking forward to playing her favourite Mazurkas demanding not only impecable technique but also the ability 10 expose Chopin's emotions. This year's favourite with audiences has been Alexei Sultanov. a 26-year-old Russian, He was the only competitor to have a performance interrupted by appluase.

Baywatch's Pamela Anderson hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (R) - Pamela Anderson, the buxom blonde star of TV's Baywatch, was treated in a hospital Friday for "flu-like symptoms." A spokeswoman for St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica said Anderson, 27was undergoing tests and was "doing fine." She said the actress was sent to the hospital by ber doctor after sbe complained of feeling unwell at bome Thursday night. Anderson, who recently suffered a miscarriage, is married to Tommy Lee, drummer with the beavy metal rock band Motley Crue.

Preacher may be prosecuted for punching saint

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — An Evangelical preacher wbo punched and kicked an effigy of Brazil's patron saint on television could he taken to court for his disrespect, TV Globo said Saturday. A Rio judge is investigating the incident on a television sbow Thursday that bas angered not only Brazilian Catholics but followers of other faiths as well. The preacher attacked the effigy of Our Lady of Aparecida on the day Brazil bonours her with a national holiday.

Man fined for duck noises

CANBERRA (R) - An Australian man has been fined \$1,500 for quacking like a duck on his radio transmitter, a court official in the Tasmanian town of Launcesinn said. Don Desmond Davey, 57, was convicted for broadcasting something that was not speech, the official said. Mr. Davey pleaded guilty 10 16 charges over the operation and possession nf unlicensed radio communications equipment and was also ordered to hand over his radio.

Athens cracks down on litter louts

ATHENS (AFP) Authorities in the historic but polluted Greek capital, have brought in stiff fines for citizens who leave litter and transform open spaces into unofficial rubbish tips. Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos annunced the fines and ordered Athenians to clean up their yards and gardens as well.

Wajed, according to politicaused by the opposition ahead of polls. Poll shows solid gains for Quebec separatists

poll released Saturday showed solid gains for Quebec separatists in the week after their most popular leader, Lucien Bouchard, was given more prominence in the campaign for the Oct. 30 referendum.

The Leger Leger poll said the yes side — favouring Quehec separatinn from Canada — had picked up two percentage points and pulled ahead, though they were still marginally behind after the allocation of undecided vnters.

"This is the first time that it's possible for the sovereignitists to see a victory for the yes side." Jean-Marc Leger, president of group

Leger Leger said.
"It also ends suggestions that the no side would crush the sovereigntists," he said. The poll was commissioned fur the Toronto Glube and Mail and Journal De Montreal newspapers.

It showed 45 per cent of Quebeckers voting yes and 42.4 per cent voting no. with 1.6 per cent not voting, 4.8 per cent undecided and 6.2 per cent not answering. A week ago, 42.9 per cent said yes and 43.7 per cent

After allocating those wbo were undecided and did not answer, the oo side was ahead 50.8 per cent to 49.2 per cent, having slipped from 52.8 per cent to 47.2

per cent a week ago. This follows a Gallup poll released Friday night show-ing the no side leading 43 to 39 per cent, nr 53 to 47 per cent after apportioning

undecided voters. Pollsters say undecided voters tend to vote more for the status qun as they appear more concerned about the possible consequences of pulling out nf Canada.

Leger Leger polls have tended to show more strength for the separatists than those hy other major polling firms, but the change from the last poll

was unmistakable.

Mr. Leger said the improvement in the yes side's position largely reflected the fact that Mr. Bouchard has replaced lesspopular Premier Jacques Parizeau as the visible head of the sovereigntist cam-

"It was a good week, yes," Mr. Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Quebecois in the federal parliament, told an ebullient gathering Friday. "Next week is going to he even prettier."

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, fighting to keep Canada together, told reporters in Montreal he was not at all concerned, and pointed in the defeat nf the last sovereignty referen-

dum in 1980. "Last time it was much closer than this time, and the result was 60-40 (in favnur of unity)," he said. Asked if be would imitate Mr. Bouchard in being more

active on the campaign trail,

Mr. Chretien said no.

The strategy of Mr. Bouchard was to destroy us in the Honse of Commons. That was given three weeks. and it was he that left (the battlefield) first. So that strategy wasn't working," he said. Ours is working and we don't need to change.

Some 73.6 per cent of the respondents said Mr. Parizeau was right to have named Mr. Bnnchard a week agn as the chief negotiator of an economic and political partnership with the rest of Canada in the event of a separatist victory.

The referendum will ask Quebeckers if Quebec should become sovereign after nffering - not necessarily achieving — a new economic and political partnership with Canada.

The Leger poll was conducted from Oct. 8-12 over 1,002 voters, with a plus or minus 3.1 per cent margin of error 19 times out of 20.

Opposition leader arrested over Mugabe murder plot

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) Veteran opposition leader the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole was arrested Saturday for suspected links to a plot to assassinate President Robert Mugabe, police said.

The fiery, eccentric preacher, 75, was taken from his Harare home following disclosures Tuesday that an armed group claim-

party planned to ambusb Mr. Mugabe's motorcade. Police spokesman Enock Ngwenya said Rev. Sithole,

a member of parliament. was being questioned about the alleged plot involving. two men charged with conspiracy to commit murder and engage in acts of terrorism and sabotage.

Rev. Sithole, an independent congregationalist mining lnyalty to his small ister, helped found what is

with Mr. Mugabe shortly after the end of white minority rule in 1980.

Rev. Sithole spent a decade in self-imposed exile in the United States after being accused of plotting an uprising against Mr. Mugabe's government. He returned tn Zimbabwe in

His Zimhabawe African

now Zimbabwe's governing National Union-Ndonga party in the 1960s but split Party holds the only two opposition seats in the 150seat parliament

On Tuesday, prosecutors

said that Simba Mhlanga,

30, alleged commander of the Chimwenie Freedom Fighters, a little-known dissident group, was accused of leading at least 11 men on a mission to attack Mr. Mugabe's motorcade nn

aircraft carrier to India

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia may sell its last aircraft carrier

still in service to India, an official said Saturday.

The carrier Admiral Kuznetsov has been in the Nurthern

The ITAR-TASS news agency quoted an unidentified

The nfficial military daily Krasnaya Zvezda Saturday assailed plans to sell aircraft carriers, saying Russia needs them to remain a great naval power.

ton al an cas acted nd very happy hysaelef deleast, said Gabrela Acorders of Mianu, one of it two Americans You and relax a but on the neg tage). There are very diff. ult pieces, but ren sind the 3 car-old Venezuela-hon Tentere The competition irst held in 1927 pag seattining to the lath-office y Polish born compon and typically launches mericanonal careers For if temperament and trained by critics, Money arid she was looking for ward to playing be avounte Mazurkas

demanding not only impecable technique by also the ability to expor Thomas emotions The year's havourne with and ences has been Alexa Sultaniov, a 20-year-ok Russian He was the only compensor to have a pafor thinke interrupted by appinase

Baywatch's Pamela Anderson hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, Car. (R) - - Paniela Anderse the boyon blonde star: TV's Blaywardh, was treext in a hospital finday to "Ourble Symptoms" A spoke-woman for Si John: Hasenal in Same Morris a and Anderson, 27, war and over greats and some "clotter time." She said they actives was sent to the frequently by her decler at she complained of feelz orrived at home Thursts might Anderson, #k revently somered a mistplayer is married to long Lee. dimmuer with the heavy mount rock has Motley Cos

Preacher may be prosecuted for punching saint

RIO DE LANGRURE An I cancelled preads who punched and lide an office of Brand's part saint on television coulds taken to court for his dist spect, IV Globe & Samistay A Rio judget my estimating the make on a television sta Thursday that has anged Catholics but followers? outy other tanks as well be preacher and ked the conof Our Lady & Apprecials on the in Brazil honours her with national holiday

Man fined for duck noises CANBIERRA (R)

Australian man has been fined \$1.500 for quick like a duck on his rate transmitter, a court office in the Lismanian lower Launceston said Designated Davey 57 at convicted for broadcastic something that was speech, the official Mr. Davey pleaded guille to to charges out operation and possession of unfocused radio of and was also ordered a hand over his tadio

Athens cracks down on litter louts Amhormes in the histe but pointed Greek and have brought in suff int for emeens who leave are and transform open sage mo mollical ribbish

Mayor Dimuris

and ordered Athenians

Koreans thought Moscow hijacker was prankster

South Koreans who escaped unburt from a 10-hour hostage drama in central Moscow thought at first the man who hijacked their hus was a prankster, officials and news reports said

The South Koreans, employees of the Hyundai Electronics Industries Co. were all in good shape and would go ahead with a planned tour of Germany, Hyundai spokesman Cho Won-Sang said in Seoul.

"We were panicked when we heard the news about the hijacking," Mr. Cho said of a drama in which 24 Hyundai employees, two Korean guides and a Russian driver were held hostage on a tourist hus. The gunman had released Korean correspondents in

SEOUL (R) - A group of all but four people by the Moscow, one of the The hijacker, speaking to time Russian police stormed the bus to kill the man and free the remaining hostages

> "Despite the incident, we will let them travel to Germany to lonk around industrial facilities there as we have confirmed that they are in good health," Mr. Cho told Reuters.

The South Korean government expressed gratitude to Moscow for its "quick" cooperation and the successful police operation to rescue the hostages. "Our government express-

es deep gratitude to the Russian government." Foreign Ministry spokesman Suh Dae-Won said in a statement

In an interview with Sonth

hostages, Yoon Dong-Hyon, said a masked man aimed a pistol at the group and shouted "draw the curtain" after they got on the bus near the Kremlin.

"We thought it was a joke and all laughed," Yoon was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap news

"Then the guy fired a warning shot towards the ceiling. We realised it was serious and gestured to vendors around the bus that we were in danger but they thought we were saying hello," he was quoted as

Yoon said two of the 26 managed to escape during the confusion. The hus was surrounded by police in about 20 minutes, he said.

oon of peace and tranquilli-

ty", she told a group of

We have made some head-

way. The restoration of

peace is a slow but uphill

Ms. Bhutto accused the

MQM, which represents

Urdn-speakers who fled

from India after partition in

1947 and their descendants,

of having a narrow ethnic

ontlook which did not serve

"How can a person born in

Pakistan be said to be a

refugee (Mohajir)? Karachi

muld-ethnic," she

Ms. Bhutto reiterated her

"Karachi does disturb us.

newspaper editors.

task," she said.

Pakistan.

the tourists through their Russian-speaking guide, assured them that they would not be hort if he got a ransom of \$10 million, Yoon said.

"He let us smoke and sleep," said Yoon, one of the hostages freed early on.

Before Yoon was released, the gunman displayed a package he was carrying and said it was a bomb which he would set off if the hostages did not cooperate.

Yoon denied Russian reports the hijacker was from North Korea. "He was masked but he definitely had a Cancasian nose," he was qnoted as saying.

The Hyundai employees left Seoul Friday for a week-long trip to Moscow and Germany.

in seeking a rapprochement with North Korea, citing the Communist nation's refusal to improve inter-Korean relations, reports said Sunday. Seoul has sent a strong

SEOUL (AFP) — South

asked

has

Washington to slow down

note to Washington in a bid to persuade U.S. officials from hastily opening a liaiison office in Pyongyang, which remains unwilling to improve ties with South Korea, the Chosun-Ilho newspaper said. It said there was a wide-

spread feeling of unease among South Korean officials over Washington's push for closer ties with North Korea, the newspaper

"Washington seems to make haste with the opening of a diplomatic office in Pyongyang," a government source was quoted by the paper as saying.

In related remarks pub-lished Sunday by the New York Times, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam expressed concern over the North's hardline stance, calling it "a very difficult partner to deal with."

"Our concern is that

because of their desperation or frustration about their declining economy, they may start on a course of adventurous military provocadon, Mr. Kim was quoted as saying.

Seoul asks U.S. to slow down in

rapprochement with Pyongyang

Referring to South Korea's shipment of 150,000 ionnes of free rice to North Korean flood victims, Mr. Kim said he felt betrayed and disappointed by Pyongyang.

After a brief thaw created by the rice shipments which started in June, inter-Korean relacions turned frosty again following the hreakdown of rice talks between the two Koreas in Beijing three week ago.

Seoul contends that inter-Korean talks are a prerequisite to U.S.-North Korean normalisation under their landmark accord concluded a year ago, which defused a crisis over the North's controversial nuclear programme.

Under the Geneva accord, the North closed suspected nuclear facilities in return for a promise hy Washington of diplomatic and economic benefits.

As a first step, Washington and Pyongvang have agreed to open liaison offices in each other's capitals.

Meanwhile a South Ko- 1910 treaty under which rean official said Sunday President Kim has urged Japan to repent fully for the atrocities it committed against Koreans before and

during World War 11. "I have funire-oriented toughts hasically. But Japan... should make full repenience for its past wrongdoings," an official at the prime minister's office quoted Mr. Kim as telling a dinner meeting with his cahinet ministers Saturday.

Mr. Kim, disclosing the contents of his interview with the New York Times earlier Saturday, told the ministers that the division of the Korean peninsula had resulted from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea, the official said.

Mr. Kim also criticised Japan's direct talks with North Korea on rice "over the heads" of South Korea. He said it undermined Seoul's efforts towards unification of the two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mr. Kim's comment was apparently in response to recent remarks made by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Tokyo's position about a defeat in World War II.

Japan colonised Korea.

On Oct. 5, Mr. Murayama told parliament the treaty was signed and implemented in a technically valid manner, judging from international relations and other circumstances at the time.

Mr. Murayama Friday moved to head off a furore over his remarks hy saying the annexacon treaty was signed on an "unequal foot-

"I don't think the two countries stood on an equal footing in signing the annexation treaty," Murayama told parliament's lower house hudget committee.

In the parliamentary session, Mr. Murayama said Japan must squarely face history and reflect on what it had done to the Korean people in order to build 'friendly relations".

Nevertheless, Mr. Muravama's remarks triggered fierce criocism from both South and North Korea where hitter memories remain of Japan's 35 years of colonial rule, which ended in 1945 with Tokyo's

Gunmen kill politician, 8 others in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Gunmen shot dead nine people, including a politician, in the Pakistani city of Karachi Saturday night and Sunday, the start of a week in which planned opposition protests threaten renewed

The ethnic Mohajir Movement of the city. National (MQM) has called for a strike Wednesday to protest against what it says was the killing of one of its activists in police custody last week. Police say the activist, Mufeez Farooqi, died in a shoot-out with MQM gunmen in which his brother Fahim Farooqi and two other MQM detainees under police escort were killed

On Thursday, the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League plans to stage a oationwide "black day" of protest to mark the end of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's second year in

power. Police said unidentified attackers killed Ahmad Ali Soomro, 40, a former nicinber of Ms. Bhotto's Pakistan People's Party, outside his house at midnight.

They said the son of a want to use force. We are

municipal councillor was only interested in restorashot dead Sunday morning. Seven other people, including five members of a single family, were killed in sepa-

rate incidents overnight. Unidentified gunmen herded members of a family into a corner of their house in the North Nazimabad area

They killed five people, four of them women, and seriously wounded another woman. Another family member had been killed half an hour earlier. The motive for the attacks was not immediately clear, police said.

On Saturday, three policemen were killed by gunmen in a drive-by shooting in the neighbouring city of Hyderabad, also troubled by conflict between the MQM and security forces.

been killed in Karachi this month, raising the death tolk for the year to more than Ms. Bhutto said Saturday

stalled peace talks with the MQM to produce results. "The government is very serious in talks. We do not

view that MQM leader Altaf Hussain, living in self-exile in London, should return to Pakistan and face court More than 75 people have charges against him. Top army officers arrested

Meanwhile Ms. Bhutto said several senior army officers had been arrested, but did that the government wanted not :..confirm:; :newspaper reports Sunday that, they were suspected of working for an Islamic revolution.

"Some individuals are under investigation, but it is Nation said.

premature to say anything," she told newspaper editors

Saturday night. "When the investigations are completed, details will be known and the nation will be taken into confi-

dence. Ms. Bhutto had been asked to comment on a statement by Senator Tariq Chaudhry, a member of a party allied to the ruling Pakistan People's Party, that senior army officers were under arrest

The English-language daily The Nation said Major General Zaheer-Ul-1slam Abbasi, working as director general of infantry at general headquarters bad been arrested with a brigadier general, a colonel and three dozen army officers on Sept. 26.

A military spokesman refused to confirm the details carried by The Nation, but another officer said Gen. Abbasi had been correctly identified.

Gen. Abbasi previously served as military attache at the Pakistani emhassy in New Delhi and was expelled after being declared persona non grata. The

Report: Russian criminals behind theft of beryllium

WASHINGTON (AP) -Russia's notorious organised crime syndicates were behind the theft in 1993 of radioactive beryllium from a Russian nuclear laboratory and the failed attempt to sell the material in the West, according to a magazine

and broadcast report. The crime syndicates, known as "Mafiya," appear to be deeply involved in the theft and smuggling of nuclear-related materials out of Russia for sale to the highest hidder, the report

The mysterious beryllium

police in Lithuania and an Austrian middleman who remains today in the bank vault where it was first discovered, according to the report. Seizure of the material was reported widely in

But a five-mooth investigation by U.S. News And World Report and CBS' "60 Minutes" programme has sbed additional light on the theft. The report is to be aired by CBS Sunday and be featured in the magazine issue appearing on newsstands Monday.

According to the report, the smugglers were prepar-

in turn had a mystery huyer who was ready to pay as material, 10 times its legitimate market value. The buyer, although never idenofied, was said to be Korean, according to the

Beryllium, which is used in missile guidance systems and for other military purposes, is a highly efficient neutron reflector, according to nuclear scientists. That makes it valuable for building more efficient nuclear warheads or a smaller shipment was seized by ing to sell the beryllium to nuclear reactor.

des have said frequently that they believe the greatmuch as \$24 million for the est coocern about the smuggling of nuclear materials out of the former Soviet Union stems from possible thefts by plant workers, disgruntled scientists or amateur criminals.

Russian and U.S. authori-

But the beryllium case shows that organised crime also is deeply involved, according to the magazine and television report.

The journalists found that a trading firm in Moscow linked to the Russian "Mafiya" handled the export of the beryllium.

SIEMENS AG-Jordan Branch

is proud to annouce the signing of the contract for the installation of Digital telephone exchanges for 300000 lines





On Oct. 12, 1995, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has signed an agreement with Siemens AG, to install digital telephone exchanges in several areas all around Jordan at a cost of JD 26 million within the framework of the National Telecommunication program.

Siemens will implement the project within 24 months.

The agreement was signed by TCC Director General Mr. Walid Dweik and Director International Sales Mr. F. Raffelsberger on behalf of Siemens AG in the presence of the Chairman of the board of TCC Mr. Jamal Saraireh, the Minister of Post and Communication and the Chairman of the supervisory board of Siemens AG. Dr. Hermann Franz.

SIEMENS/



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Parades before the fact

IRAQI SCHOOLCHILDREN'S rehearsal of victory parades for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, well before the results of yesterday's referendum were announced, indicates the shallowness with which the costly exercise was heing conducted. The songs of adulation for the Iraqi leader, coupled with uninhibited predictions by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that support for President Saddam Hussein would amount to 100 per cent will not be able to hide the fact that Iraq today is no less deprived of the most elementary features of real. pluralistic democracy.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz attempted, in vain, to dispel the belief that the referendum was totally unnecessary when he admitted that his country was not aiming for the type of democracy that is found in the West for instance. While it is true that developing countries such as Iraq cannot he expected to enjoy that kind of democracy, we would have expected that what the Iraqi people did and do yearn for, before and now, is at least the beginning of a democratic process that is basically derived from international norms and stan-

Baghdad has signed and ratified so many international human rights conventions and treaties, which put Iraq in the group of nations that support basic freedoms and liherties for their peoples. Yet the realities in our sister country demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt that it is no way near the path of functional democracy, not now nor in the immediate future. No matter what the outcome of Sunday's plebiscite is, therefore, it would be never legitimate or credible enough to establish one way or another the free choice of the Iraqi people. The only sensible way left for Iraq is to first dismantle the police state, allow the establishment of political parties, and then conduct free parliamentary elections based on pluralism and the collective rights of all Iragis.

We agree that all efforts should be concentrated on lifting the sanctions against Iraq as a top priority. Inching towards true democracy, though, could only help that cause — not undermine it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A writer in Al Ra'i daily Sunday attacked a report hy Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations special envoy overseeing the dismantling of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, in which he recommends that sanctions remain imposed on Iraq for fear of its future ability to produce nnclear and chemical weapons. Tareq Masarweh said that because of the report, Iraq would not be permitted to sell oil, even though its people are suffering from a lack of funds for food and medicine. The maintenance of sanctions is inhibiting Iraq's ability to develop industrially, culturally and socially and is forcing the Iraqis to concede to American terms, added the writer. This act of genocide, wrote Mr. Masarweh, is the ohiective of the United States, which is employing the U.N. and its envoy to execute Washington's orders and exterminate millions of Iraqi citizens. Condemning the U.N. Security Council's policy on Iraq, the writer said that the Council was acting as an accessory to a crime committed against the Arab people.

By announcing that national unity was one of Jordan's primary priorities and by stressing that refugee rights would be safeguarded, King Hussein ended rumours in the press concerning the future of refugee-camp residents, said Al Dustour daily Sunday. The paper said that King Hussein's emphasis on national unity, no matter the origin of a Jordanian citizen, had reassured teos of thousands of camp inhabitants. Rumours of eviction had spread following a court ruling that restored its owners the land where Al Hussein camp is estab...ned, said the daily. The King's instructions to the government to solve the problem practically, has set every one's mind at rest, the paper added.

Linuari Rights File

What the future may hold for the West Bank

CALL ME a pessimist, but the more I think about it, the more I am convinced that come the third and final stage of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the whole peace process between the two sides will crumble like a bouse of cards. It is not only that the Israel body politic was evenly and dangerously divided over the limited and modest Oslo II accord that has convinced me, but the tide of Israeli public opinion for peaceful accommodation with the Palestinians on the basis of Oslo I is fast eroding and numing hostile. The stature of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the architect of the Oslo I and all the subsequent agreements struck on its basis, is weakening to the extent that he may not be able to deliver much when the final stage of peace talks arrives. What Israel conceded to the PNA thus far is peanuts compared to what the Palestinians expected from them in the

preceding years. And when the day of reckoning arrives, the Israelis may find themselves unwilling or unable to deliver effective control to the PNA over much of the West Bank. Not to mention the thorny subject of Jerusalem, where the Israelis are united in not giving np sovereignty rights over East Jerusalem to the Arab. But by the time Israel and the PNA discover that what they have started cannot be completed. Israel would have concluded peace accords with all the Arab states including Syria and Lebanon, leaving the Palestinians alone, stranded and isolated. By then, the Palestinians will have no claim on the Arab countries. since it is they who separated from Arah ranks in the first place hy secretly negotiating a separate agreement with

the Rabin government in 1993 in the Norwegian capital,

Can the Palestinians then pick up the pieces and start all over again salvaging what could be saved? I think the PNA would do itself greater justice if it levels with the Palestinian people and tells them that the creation of an independent Palestinian state is not really on the cards, just as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin bas repeatedly reassured his people. The Labour-led government in Israel is aiming for the creation of Palestinian entities within the West Bank that are not necessarily connected even geographically. Rabin aims to keep the West Bank under effective Israeli control. This explains why the Israeli Peace Now movement has recently accused the Labour government of actually implementing on the ground what the Likud Party bas advocated for decades. The current building and housing campaign in the Palestinian territories attests to the fact that there may be no real difference between Likud and Labour when it comes to the final Israeli vision of the

We need to keep in mind that the territory of former Palestine is so tiny to national demands of both sides, and especially the ambitions of Israeli military strategists. It was reported and confirmed that the late Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan once called on his generals in the wake of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to propose lines of demarcation to which Israeli troops may "safely" withdraw within the West Bank. The reply of the Israeli military then was that there were no such safe boundaries to which the Israeli army can withdraw. This, and other relat-

ed confirmed reports, would explain Jordan's failure to strike an equitable deal with Israel on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 for more than two decades of Israeli occupation.

If Israel, therefore, is unwilling to relinquish effective control to the Palestinians over much of the West Bank, then the two sides would eventually face a new situation that could re-impose the creation of a de facto binational state in the whole of Palestine. This is admittedly anathema to Rabin and like-minded Israelis who have decided to separate Israel from the Palestinians altogether. Still, if the majority of the Israelis would prefer to separate from the Palestinians, how can they reconcile this objective with their insistence on maintaining a firm grip over what they still call Judea and Samaria? Unless of course Israel has a long-term solution to the presence of millions of Arahs in these areas that we have not considered yet!

Frankly, I do not see the Israelis yielding on strategic control over the West Bank whether Israel is governed by Labour or Likud. One has to be naive to think otherwise. Most probably, though, what could emerge at the end of the day - on the hasis of established evidence - is a formula under which the PNA would enjoy a semhlance of control over most of the West Bank but remain a vassal of sorts of Israel until the day arrives in the future when a new generation of Israelis and Palestinians can strike a new deal for coexistence within a framework of a confederation along the lines of the Canadian confederation.

U.S. conspiracy trial: All found guilty

Sheikh to lawyer:

By Jane Hunter

AFTER SEVEN days of deliberations, a federal jury in New York convicted Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and nine co-defendants of conspiring to wage a terrorist war against the United States. Stunned defence attorneys, who said they would appeal against the verdicts, bitterly denounced the government for using fear to manipulate the jury and expressed disappointment that the jurors had succumbed to anti-Muslim

stereotyping.

Among the 25 guilty couots, which the jury delivered in the early afternoon of October 1, were findings that the Egyptian cleric plotted to murder President Muharak of Egypt and that Egyptian-born Sayyid Nosair murdered the Israeli right-wing extremist Meir Kahane in 1990. All 10 defeodants were found guilty of the rarely used 19th century charge of seditious conspiracy. The government claimed the Kahane murder was the first act in that conspiracy, which also included the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Ceotre and plans to bomh huildings and tunnels.

Brushing aside the defence's claim that the bomhing plots were manufactured and organised by FBI informant Emad Salem, the jurors embraced the government's theory on all but two counts. They acquitted Nosair and his cousin Ibrahim Elgabrowny of a direct role in the bomh plots.

They convicted everyone of everything," said Abdeen Jabara, one of the attorneys for Sbeikh Abdul Rahman. "If our client had been acquitted on some counts, it would have shown that they'd really studied the evidence. "The defence attorneys "totally misread the jury," Jabara told MEI after the announcement of the verdicts. The attorneys had hoped that the jury would be sceptical of the government's evidence, but

instead they "came in with all the prejudices they had from the media," Jabara said. "We just didn't expect them to come back this

quickly.' In a statement after the verdict, U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White said the convictions were for criminal acts and had nothing to do with religion or ethnicity. Jabara said one of the issues to be raised on appeal will be the judge's refusal 10 ask potential jurors allow them to hring fear into our streets." ahout their atti-

tudes towards Arabs and Muslims.

Speaking to reporters . outside the courthouse, attorney Jacobs charged that the government had put the jurors "in fear for themselves. Their attitude

never going to let these people go home again." Reporters noted the unprecedentedly high level of security in the court that continued even after the trial stopped drawing spectators, and also that the jurors were quickly escorted away in a van. Almost immediately, authorities issued a highly publicised security alert for airports and U.S. installations abroad. News organisations quoted anonymous government

cific threats had been received. Defence attorneys said the government raised the jurors' fears with its focus on the World Trade Centre bombing, which was included in the conspiracy allegations even though none of the defendants had any

sources both hinting that retaliatory attacks

were anticipated and admitting that no spe-

involvement beyond travelling in the same ing explosives for use on U.S. targets. circles as the four men convicted of the attack last year. During the nine-month trial, the government spent three and a half weeks presenting "twisted metal and witnesses that were blown across the room, and all this at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing," noted Jabara. The prosecution's message, he said was clear: "We must not

The sheikh faces a life sentence, as does The Nosair. other defendants face "Don't cry. I'm not the maximum senfirst person to go to jail for his beliefs and I won't be the last." tences of 20 years on the seditious conspicacy counts, plus terms of between five years

for each of the on which they were convicted. Following the verdict, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Mukasey said be would sentence the men in late January.

It remains to be seen whether Mukasey will impose the maximum sentences against all of the defeodants. One, Puerto Rican Victor Alvarez, is mildly retarded. The involvement of Clement Hampton, an American, and Faris Khalafallah, a native of Sudan, was limited to seeking bomb components. Mohammad Salih also played a minor role. Three Sudanese immigrants, cousins Amir and Fadil Abdul Ghani and Tariq Al Hassan, were arrested as they, along with Alvarez, mixed bomb ingredients. The jury did not accept their explana-tion that they didn't know they were mak-

Grounds for appeal

In addition to Mukasey's handling of jury selection, the defendants' appeals, which will be filed after sentences are announced. will focus on the failure of the judge and the prosecutors to tell defence attorneys that, during opening statements, they were negotiating with the man they accused of being the ringleader of the conspiracy, Siddiq Ali. He was therefore privy to defence strategy when he subsequently agreed to a plea-bargaio with the government; be did not testify at the trial.

The appeals will also raise the issue of the prosecution's use of tape recordings made by FBI informant Emad Salem. Some of the 20 FBI agents called by the defence testified that, although the hureau paid Salem over \$1 million for his work on the case, agents failed to supervise his taping. The defence contends that Salem discarded exculpatory statements. Another appeal issue, according to Jabara, will Mukasey's refusal to allow testimony hy Islamic expents.

Yet another appeal issue may be the gov-ernment's use of Abdul Rahman's sermons to support its contention that his preachings were a coded call to a "jihad of urban terrorism." Constitutional scholars have fretted over the implications of this limitation on the right of free speech. Abdul Rahman's principal lawyer, Lynne Stewart, related that, as the verdicts were read, the hlind cleric tried to comfort her. He said: "Don't cry. I'm not the first person to go to jail for his beliefs and I won't be the last. There are always pitfalls when you choose this road."

Middle East International

By Maurice Saatchi

IN THE spirit of the times, I would like to start with some nudity. Not because I bave a missed vocation as editor of a tabloid newspaper. But because nudity is highly relevant to my theme - the democracy of infor-

Demo acy, of course, traces its heritage back to ancient Greece. The word itself can be roughly translated as rule hy the people. A less well-known item from the Greek lexicon is the word alatheia. It means truth. But the Greeks often translated the word "truth" as "the un-hidden". Or "the uncovered". Hence the long artistic tradition of representing truth as oude. Centuries ago, for the Greeks, the truth was "that

which does not hide". So if the Athenians were among us today, they would be delighted to discover that, over the years, there has been a buge increase in the amount of information that is un-hidden. The jouroey began in the days when informatioo was in the hands of the few. There was no news, because nearly everything was hidden. And then news was invented: information which someone, somewhere, wanted to remain hidden. So to know the truth, we had to know the news.

From this need to know, it was only a short distance to

Nothing left to hide

where we are today. The right to know. Seen from the classical perspective, this is nothing more than the right to be told the truth. Full information. Uncovered. Unhidden. In effect, we bave given birth to a new form of democracy — a democracy of information. Its parents, truth and curios-

ity. Its midwife, the media. So now nothing is hidden. Now we know everything. We know how much the queen earns. We know the pension of the chairman of ICL We know the marital con-

> dition of our political lead-And the sexual condition of our movie stars. We know which schools produce the best A levels. Which hospital has the

How much tar and nicotine there is in a cigarette. And the precise ingrediflakes.

best record in hips replace-

Today, for good or ill, society's cosy status quo is being challenged dramatically; not by Rupert Murdocb or CDROMs or the Internet - hut hy something far more threatening. An audience with a democratic right to full

But is this a hirth to celebrate or regret? Is it a good thing to live in a democracy of information? Frankly, it is not as clear as some people think. In particular, there are two dangers in the democracy of information that I would like to warn against: a threat posed by it and a threat posed to it.

We should recognise that this flood of uncontrolled information has wider effects. It can shatter comforting illusions. It is disconcerting to discover that our monarchs are interested in their image. That our politicians are interested in their sexuality. And that our bosses are interested in their pay. Our streets are filled with rivers of blood from this daily slaughter of sacred cows. But the astonishment created hy this stream of sbocking revelations quickly turns to worldweary resignation. Who can deny that this affects the ents of a packet of corn- way people see life in gen-

We hear a lot about the decline of deference, the death of institutions, the rise of apathy, the triumph of cynicism. But is it surprising that people lose respect for great institutions and public figures when they are constantly being exposed as comupt, incompetent, or just

simply buman?

Since the World War II, almost every British prime minister and American president has achieved a lower "low" rating from the public than any predecessor. It's a straight line down. This new democracy of information is the main cause of this disaffection and of the record low levels of esteem in which our familiar institutions are held. They have not got worse; we simply

know more about them now. This is largely a good thing. But not always. In politics, democracy is corrupted when it turns into the tyranny of the majority . the "elected dictatorship" of Lord Hailsham's celehrated warning. Equally, the democracy of information is corrupted hy the tyranny of revelation. Ultimately, the only people who can stop this are our editors and our regulators. They should use their power wisely. A lot depends on it.

You would think that the better informed the audience, the less the need for government regulation. But, on the contrary, it appears that some people in authority do not trust us with all this information. For example, proposals now circulating in the European Commission represent a

buge extension to government regulation of what we are allowed to see and hear. Astonishingly, it is proposed that a whole range of products which can be freely sold cannot be freely described to the public.

Instead of providing more information to people, the commission wants to cover up what is currently available. So there are threats to the advertising of toys, sweets, snacks, soft drinks, tobacco, slimming foods, alcohol, betting, pharmaceuticals - because someone somewhere, who no douhi consumes all these things like most normal people, has decided that the public cannot be trusted to receive advertising messages about them.

Directives on hroadcasting. Restrictions on advertising. Bans on sexual stereotyping. Where will it end? Presumahly, ohjections will be raised in due course to the advertisiog of washing powder, on the grounds that people should not be duped into the dangerous belief that they can dirty their clothes and get away with it.

It is ironic that just as we begin to enjoy the benefits of the democracy of information, some people are preparing to impose this

dictatorship of suppression. In its threat to our fundamental right of free speech it resembles the arguments of those who launched the fatwah against Salman Rusbdie.

This is an "adwah" against our right to free expression through advertising. I hope everyone who believes in free expression will resist these proposals — as the Canadian supreme court recently did hy ruling that bans on tohacco advertising are infringements of free

So while the democracy of information is enormously welcome, we should constantly be vigilant against the threat posed by it - the tyranny of revelation; and the threat in it - the dictatorship of suppression. The temptation in such situations is to try to find a balance. A balance between truth and curiosity. But the problem in seeking balance is that you can end up falling between two stools.

Of course, the negative consequences of all the information that we have may tempt us to protect, to control. To hide and cover up. To try to go hack to where we were befure. But consider this: the alternatives to this new democracy of information are worse. The truth hurts. But ignorance kills.

The Guardian



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Babies for sale

LUZ MIRANDA, 17 years old and nearly eight months pregnant, thought she was going for a pre-natal examination arranged by the woman she worked for as a maid, but then the nurses tied her down. When she struggled, they hit her.

"I cried for help and told them to stop but they just carried on. I told them I didn't want them to take my baby, then I felt the excruciating pain of the knife going in." With only a local anaes-

thetic, in non-sterile surroundings, she had a caesarean section. Once the baby had been removed, Luz was abandoned in the back room of a clandestine oursery, in Asuncion, Paraguay. She was found because of a providential raid hy judge Patricia Balsco, who has been invesrigating the illegal baby trade. But her wounds had become infected. Doctors had to give ber massive blood transfusions to save her and she is scarred for life. In August, thanks to

BBC2's Assignment programme, which went to Paraguay to investigate the bahy trade, she was finally reunited with her daughter, prematurely torn from her because an adoption lawyer urgently needed a baby for prospective parents arriving from abroad.

Dionisia Gonzalez is a married woman with five children. Her husband's wages as a building labourer are very low; the family lives in a one-room shack on the outskirts of Asuncion. One day a woman appeared at her door saying she was the boss's wife and that Dionisia's husband had suffered a terrible accident and been taken to hospital. She said she would take Dionisia there, and told her to bring her 10-month-old baby. Rodrigo.

At the hospital she offered to hold him while Dionisia, distraught, rushed in to look for her injured husband. He was not there and when she came out the woman and Rodrigo had disappeared. walking the streets because she had no money for transport, appealing on a radio programme where she read out a letter to him: "Are you all right, Rodrigo, are you thirsty, hungry, are you cry-

ing, are you upset because we aren't with you?"

Her agony lasted two months until the same judge, who later found Luz, organised a raid on a clandestine guardaria (nursery) and found 29 habies and small children packed into cots in small dark rooms, waiting to be adopted. As soon as new parents were found they would be transferred - by

then better-fed and dressed in

new clothes - to a shiny new

Rodrigo was so thin and pale that Dionisia was only sure it was her son when she recognised his birthmarks; he was also covered in severe nappy rash. Another bahy was so sick that he died in hospital. Rodrigo went back to the one-room shack. Now he is three years old, hut still scared of strangers. Dionisia cries when she remembers those days.

Every year hundreds of childless couples arrive in Paraguay to adopt a baby, 90 per cent from the U.S., the rest from the U.K., Europe and Israel. They come in ignorance of the misery behind Paraguay's booming adoption trade. They believe they are involved in a legal process. They have paid up to £15,000 to an adoption agency, had a home study done, been interviewed by social workers. Many have made 'financial sacrifices to pay the costs. One couple mortgaged their home and

sold their car. While they wait in Asuncion for the paperwork to go through, which can take months, couples can have their baby staying with them, often in the city's most comfortable hotels. At the Gran Hotel del Paraguay, once the favourite haunt of travellers and writers, waiters manoeuwre round high chairs as they serve dinner, while the squawk of parrots in the gardens is almost drowned by

baby cries. Paraguay has no official adoption agency. Instead, a couple may be in the hands of a lawyer who arranges baby-sitters, hotels - and the baby. In some of the guardarias each cot has the lawyer's name on it.

The demand caused hy falling fertility in industrialised countries has transhumanitarian act — finding new parents for an unwanted or orphaned child - into a trade dominated by a small group of unscrupulous

This woman's child was taken from her womb so that an American

couple could have him. Jan Rocha of The Guardian reports

lawyers. Paraguay, a Catholic country with strong family values, has very few orphaned or unwanted children, but it does have thousands of poor, often illiterate, women, whose habies can be bought, taken hy deceit or even stolen.

Only 30 per cent of babies from such countries are given up voluntarily, believes Dr. Ruben Riquelme, head of the Judicial Investigation Centre attached to the imposing law courts, but actually situated in a few rooms in a hospital morgue. (It is also a career dead-end).

At Interpol's request, the centre is now investigating a haby-smuggling ring, discovered when Belgian police intercepted a Paraguayan couple at Brussels airport. They were about to band over a newborn baby to an Israeli couple, and they confessed to taking another five babies into Europe in the previous six months.

The centre raided the Asuncion home of one of the ring-leaders and found more than 100 photos of babies and children and a pile of blank hirth certificates, evidence which has mysteriously disappeared inside the labyrinth of the palace of jus-Fraudulent hirth certifi-

cates and false "mothers" who swear they are voluntarily giving up their babies are used by the traders. In 1990, an English family came to Paraguay and adopted a twoyear-old girl. Before they left she became ill, so the lawyer found another child to take her place, using the identity papers of the first child. After a year in England the adoptive parents rejected her, and she was taken into care by the local authority. Now she has been adopted hy another English family. American couples com-

plete the adoption process in Paraguay, and the child leaves as a U.S. citizen. U.K. couples have to complete the adoption process in England, taking the baby out of permission and a travel permit from the National for the Department Protection of Children, many of which have been falsified. British couples in Paraguay and in the U.K. refused to be

formed what was once a filmed. Some threatened injunctions to stop the programme being shown.

> Several of the most notorious adoption lawyers have been charged with babystealing and child-trafficking. One spent five months on remand in prison in 1993. but none of the cases has come to trial because of missing evidence and reluctant witnesses. The adoption lawyers started a vicious campaign to discredit the judge who tried to stop the trade hy raiding clandestine nurseries; she had to abandon the raids.

Tellechea, the two judges who between them authorise most of the international adoptions, (as many as 16 in one day), were accused by the American Association of Jurists of being "complacent" with the fraudulent and illegal aspects of many adoptions and of ignoring the constitutional rights of children. Judge Llano's answer to all criticisms is that adoption is better than abortion.

The lawyers who specialise in adoption have found themselves an easy way to make money, taking advantage of foreigners' desperation for a baby and of poor women's vulnerability in a country where social inequality is huge (and where nearly 40 years of violent repression under dictator General Alfredo Stroessner has left a legacy of submission). The lawyers' defence is that they are finding good homes for the babies bred by ignorant

The growing demand has boosted international adoptions in Paraguay from a few 10 years ago, when each cost only \$200-\$300, to more than 600 cases a year now. Besides the formal adoptions, an unknown number of babies are smuggled abroad. Childless Paraguayan couples say they cannot compete with the prices paid by overseas couples.

Last month, Paraguayan Congress, under pressure from human rights campaigners, voted to suspend international adoptions for one year while safeguards are introduced. The lawyers lobbied hard against suspenpared for it. In the days before it became law they filed scores of new adoption applications, enough to keep them busy for months. Now it is just a question of finding the habies.



Luz Miranda shows the caesarean scar. She thought she was in for a routine check

Israel agrees to early pullout

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat said there had been a "promise" from Mr. Peres and Prime Minister. Yitzhak Rabin to solve the prisoner issue "as quickly as possible."

Israel began a symbolic withdrawal on the West Bank last week when it handed over four villages to Palestinian control after 28 years of occupation. It also freed 900 of the

6-\$000 prisoners in its jails. President Ezere Weizman. however, has blocked the release of five women prisoners who have "blood on their hands" while another 20 have remained in prison in a show of solidarity.

Mr. Peres, however, called on the 20 women to use their nght to go free, saying their protest served no purpose. 'Why should they wait," he

The Israeli foreign minister, asked if he objected to Mr. Arafat's attempts to persuade the militant group Hamas to take part in the elections in return for a reconciliation of violence, said t was not Israel's problem but an issue for the PLO. Earlier Sunday, members of the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) preventive security service reopened five offices in villages near Jenin, defying Israeli orders they remain shut, Palesti-

nians said. "The office is open. We'll go on opening these offices in preparation to receive our national authority and we will not respond to the Israeli military," Mohammad Kabaha, an official at the office in Yabad village, told Reuters.

Kadoura Mousa, Mr. Arafat's representative in the north of the West Bank, said: "These offices all will remain

The Israeli army closed the offices on Saturday, saying they were opened illegally in areas under Israeli control. Israel confined Palestinian security chief Jihril Rajouh to self-ruled Jericho on Saturday for opening the five offices. Israeli security

sources said. Three members of Colonel Rajouh's force detained hy Israel at the offices on Saturday were freed on Sunday.

Palestinians said. On Friday, Palestinians said the Israeli army closed down PNA offices and halted renovation work at an Arabowned huilding located near Jewish settler enclaves in Hehron.

Bomb kills 6 Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

bombing campaign against South Lebanon similar to the 1992 campaign that led to a

in the fighting.

"If the Lehanese people in South Lebanon must leave their homes because of Israeli military pressure, this will affect the Hizbollah. Israel, for reasons beyond me, is not doing it," said Mr. Levran, a

reserve brigadier. He said Israel should also condition peace talks with Syria on an end to the attacks.

Moshe Maoz, director of the Truman Centre for the Advancement of Peace at the Hehrew University, agreed Syria is using the Hizbollah as part of the negotiations."

But he said that in the event of a peace deal, Hizbollah would likely defy any Syrian effort to disarm it and would likely then confront Syria as an occupier as well.

Saddam wins 100% vote

but a media show.

Everywhere with banners pledging allegiance to Presi-dent Saddam.

The most popular is "Yes, yes to Saddam Hussein." For days the state-run television and radio stations ran nothing but songs in support of President Saddam.

Many seemed to believe that it is just another ploy by the regime to show the world that the current political situation has not changed especially since the defection of President Saddam's son-inlaw, Hussein Kamel to Jordan in August. It also aimed at sending a message to the opposition within and outside Iraq that the regime is as

strong as ever. President Saddam spent the day relaxing in the com-

pany of Russian ultrana-tionalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky and discussing the state of the world.

"He was in a good mood, much more relaxed than I have seeo him before, and less confrontational and aggressive," Mr. Zhirinovsky told reporters early Sunday. "We ate fish, a beautiful fish, a presidential fish. We

drank beer... and we talked for five hours. I for four hours and he for one," said the Russian politician. President Saddam talked about the referendum, democracy and his troubled rela-

tionship with the United

States. "Saddam said he would like to develop democracy because Iraq can't be an is-land in the middle of a large

lead to an international peace

conference and the dispatch

of up to 25,000 American

troops as part of a much

larger NATO-led force polic-

Bosnian-Serb leader Rado-

van Karadzic insisted Sunday

that Serbs would not recog-

nize any change in front lines

since Sept. 8. It was agreed in

Geneva on that date that

Bosnia would formally re-

main one state, divided into a

Muslim-Croat entity on 51

per cent of the territory, and

maining 49 per cent.

Serb republic on the re-

Mr. Karadzic spoke at a

meeting of the self-styled

Bosnian Serh assembly.

Attempting to defuse popular

anger at Serh losses, he

promised to call to account

commanders who had aban-

ground was unclear, given

The exact position on the

doned their positions.

ing peace.

ferendum the Americans say he has no democracy and when he does have a referendum the Americans say he has no democracy. He says what can I do?" he said. "But there's no negative feeling about the United States.... he has no feeling of revenge," he added. "We agreed that U.S. poli-

"But when he has no re-

cy has had a reverse result, that U.S. policy towards Iraq has had negative results," he

Mr. Zhirinovsky said the meeting took place at a presidential palace in Baghdad which the Americans had never found and bombed. He declined to say if he was hlindfolded on the way.

The Russian is the best known of the many politicians Iraq has invited to Baghdad to witness the referendum.

Bosnia fighting slows down which Washington hopes will

(Continued from page 1)

mine that served as a Serb detention centre in 1992, but most are in the open. Aid agencies have very few supplies in the nearby Serb

stronghold of Banja Luka. where refugees have flooded in since early August, when neighbouring Croatia retook most of its Serb-held land and sent more than 100,000 Serbs fleeing into Bosnia. The Red Cross has handled an additional 130.000 re-

fugees in northern Bosnia since mid-September, when government and Croat forces started taking large chunks of Serb-held land in Bosnia, Mr. Sparrow said.

The disarray has helped trigger rifts among Serb leaders over the U.S.-led peace process. The current truce is supposed to last 60 days. ushering in peace talks in the United States on Oct. 31

government refusal to allow U.N. monitors into territory taken by Muslim-led and Croat forces last week. But all three warring par-

ties agreed late. Saturday to submit maps giving their positions, and promised to allow the United Nations free access soon. Sochacki said. As territory changes hands in the north, additional reports of atrocities are coming

Aid workers have reported up to 6.000 expulsions of Muslims and Croats from Serb-held territory in the past week. There have been reports of draft-age men separated from their families, summary executions, robbery and rape.

Bosnai's war erupted in April 1992, when armed Serbs rebelled against Muslims and Croats after a vote to secede from Serh-led Yugoslavia. Some 200 (K) people are believed dead or



League chief: Israel cannot control Arab economy

Israel will never be able to control Arab economies. Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday seeking to assuage fears of economic integration with the Jewish state.

He told the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) television that Israel was far superior to its Arab neighbours in technology and its per capita. income as among the highest in the region.

But "no matter bow advanced it is, I cannot imagine Israel will be able to control the economy of Arab states. Dr. Abdul Meguid told MBC, monitred bere.

"Israel is only four to five million people while Arabs are more than 200 million and we have massive resources and a large number of intellectuals," he said. Several Arab officials have

warned against economic links with Israel following a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. They argue Israel only wanted to control their economies and find a market for its products.

Hundreds of officials and experts from Israel and Arab states are due to gather in Amman late this month along with delegates from other countries for their second Middle East economie conference after a meeting in Casablanca last year.

The talks would cover economie relations and joint projects, including the proposed Middle East Development Bank and the Tourism Coun-

Dr. Abdul Meguid, an

Egyptian, said he would attend the Amman conference but stressed Israeli-Arab economic cooperation would not be possible without peace.

"Politics and economy are faces of one coin. Economic cooperation will not succeed while there are outstanding political problems," he said.

But the head of the 22member League said be believed Arabs and Israel would eventually reach a comprehensive peace settle-

"There is no going back and peace bas become inevitable. There are some rational people in Israel wbo really want peace. They realise Israel, despite its military power, cannot guarantee security without peace," be

Arab Gulf states in major projects to tap gas wealth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are pumping billions of dollars in fresh projects to tap their enormous gas wealth to benefit from growing demand in Asia and new markets.

The projects in the sixnation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) run parallel with expansions in the upstream oil industry to increase production capacity and maintain sustainable

Gas exploitation projects involve investments of more than \$25 billion as they cover Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and petrochemicals.

"Such projects will turn the GCC countries into major exporters of LNG and petrochemicals and offset weak oil prices," a Gulf oil executive said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil power, bas embarked on projects to set up new petrochemical plants and expand existing complexes.

The kingdom already accounts for nearly 75 per cent of the total GCC production of petrochemicals and fertilizers and the new projects would sharply boost that share.

They cover the production of ethylene, propaline, and MTBE, a complex substance used in the production of unleaded petrol.

Qatar, the first GCC country to establish petrochemical industries, is also engaged in

expansion projects to double the output capacity of its QAPCO complex in 500,000 tonnes of etbylene and 280,000 tonnes of

polyethylene. Another company, Qatar Fertilizers, is increasing pro-duction by around 1,500 tonnes of ammonia per day and 2,000 tonnes of urea at a cost of \$500 million.

Qatar also plans to set up another project to porduce more than 600,000 tonnes of methanol per year a cost of \$450 million.

Bahrain, a small oil producer, is considering building a urea plant with an output capacity of around 560,000 tonnes per year. It will complement the existing ammonia plant, which produces around 425,000 tonnes per

Kuwait is setting up one of the biggest petrochemical plants in the region, with a production capacity of around 650,000 tonnes of ethylene and 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene per year.

The project, undertaken by the U.S. company Union Carbide, also includes a 360,000-tonne-capacity glycol ethylene plant.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) does not have a petrochemical industry but is planning to build a complex to produce nearly 300,000 tonnes of ethylene per year. The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion.

The UAE is already a major producer of fertilizers, most of which are exported in China. Production exceeds 600,000 tonnes of ammonia

and urea. Oman has also announced plans to set up a petrocbemical complex at a cost of \$600-\$700 million to produce polyethylene. The sultanate is likewise considering estab-lishing fertilizer industries,

In LNG, Qatar is about to launch one of the biggest projects in the world to tap its giant North Field.

Industry sources said the project, involving several foreign partners, would produce nearly 20 million tonnes of LNG per year and its cost was expected to exceed \$12

Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Turkey and other countries bave already signed supply contracts.

Oman also plans an LNG project to exploit its new gas discoveries. The plant, to be completed by the year 2000, will produce six million tonnes and officials have put costs at around \$8 billion.

GCC states bave around 460 billion barrels of crude oil and 19.5 trillion cubic metres (652 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas. They account for nearly 45 per cent and 15 per cent of global reserves respectively.

They already bave 24 pet-rochemical plants and 35 fertilizers plants.

Customs Department plans easier, fairer procedures import/export will be applic-

Staff Reporter

GCC official

urges EU

to drop

planned

carbon tax

MUSCAT (R) - A prop-

osed European Union (EU)

energy tax would hit Arab

Gulf economies and damage

ties between the two trade

groups, a senior Arab Gulf

"This will effect negatively

trade relations between the

two groups because it touches

upon the most important eco-

nomic source of the GCC

The EU has been working

to agree on a common policy

that would impose a \$10 a

barrel tax on energy supplies

over 10 years, ostensibly to

limit the damage to the en-

vironment by burning hydro-

carbons that has been linked

this proposal on carbon tax.

that will widen the gap in the trade imbalance. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Secretary-General Sheikh

Fahim Al Oassimi said in a

statement reported by the

Sheikh Fahim's remarks were published as EU and

GCC private sector investors

arrived in the Omani capital

Muscat for ground-table talks

scheduled to start Monday.
The EU and the GCC's

Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar.

United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain and Kuwait are

trying to increase joint invest-

ment and have been working

since 1988 on finalising a free

But progress on the accord

has been hampered by the

EU's insistence on GCC uni-

fying its trade tariffs while GCC states, who include the

world's biggest oil exporters.

are balking because of

opposition to the proposed

EU energy tax, which will

trade between the two groups

can only be corrected

through increasing European

investment in the GCC by

exploiting the good invest-

ment environment in the re-

gion, as well as for the EU to

retreat on their proposals to

impose the carbon tax,"

Sheikh Fahim said.

"The current imbalance in

hit their oil earnings.

trade accord.

Oman News Agency.

"If the EU goes ahead with

official said Sunday.

countries," he said.

to ozone depletion.

AMMAN — The Customs Department intends to implement several new measures to ease procedures and ensure fairness and justice while assessing customs duties on imports by setting up baseline data and increased use of computer, the director of the department, Nazmi Abdullah, said Sunday.

The new measures, expected to be in place by July 1. 1996, envisage the creation of a list of international prices for most products on the basis of which customs duoes will be levied. Mr. Abdullah told the Jordan Times.

This means that in most cases the value of an imported product, for customs purposes, will be assessed at the international market prices rather than the invoices and relevant documents produced by the importer, Mr. Abdullah explained.

The customs authorities detect hundreds of cases every year where the importer has purposely undervalued the cost of goods so as to bring down the customs duties, but more often than not the detections are based on logic rather than any set

On the other hand, importers who reflect the actual prices in their invoices also complain of overzealous efforts on the part of customs

WASHINGTON (AP) -

The federal government will

reach the limit of its borrow-

ing authority of \$4.9 trillion

at the end of this month, the

Clinton administration bas

Treasury Secretary Robert

Rubin, attending a confer-

ence of business leaders in

Williamsburg, Virginia, said

the government "will hit the

A Treasury official who

spoke on condition of anony-

mity said Mr. Rubin bas not

pinpointed the date before,

saying instead that borrowing

authority would be exhausted

at the end of October. Others

debt ceiling Oct. 31."

Nazmi Al Abdullah officials to assess the prices

Both complaints are expected to be addressed by the new measure, said Mr. Abdullah.

"Until now we do not have a base list of prices." he said.
"We will set up a list and apply that list while assessing customs duties.

The planned price list will draw from all sources of international market prices before determining the actual value of the imported product for customs purposes, he said.

Furthermore, the measure will also be linked with a "post-audit" system consistem with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meaning that the parameters accepted by the WTO for determining whether any imponer or exponer is undervaluing the cost of the

U.S. government nearing debt ceiling

have said that the first real

risk of a government default

could occur Nov. 15 when the

Treasury is due to make a \$25

billion interest payment on

Republicans in Congress

bave vowed not to raise the

debt ceiling until President

Clinton agrees to their plans

the debt.

able to the Jordanian system. Another measure that Jordan plans is a "selfdeclaration" system and com-

puterisation. This means. according to Mr. Abdullah. that an importer could actually assess the actual customs duties due on imports with the help of computer, which will also verify the data provided hy the importers to establish accuracy.

Yet another move planned by the Customs Department is a revision of the employee incentive bonus system. "Employee incentive" is

an item in the actual customs declaration that accompanies any import into the country subject to customs duties. As the title suggests, the collected revenues are used to benefit employees of the department.

Furthermore, Customs Department employees are also entitled to a share of penalties and extra charges levied from an importer found to have undervalued the imports in the invoice.

Sixty per cent of the penalties and extra charges will be sent to the state Treasury and the rest will be deposited in a central fund that would benefit all employees.

This, Mr. Abdullah explained, helps ensure that customs inspectors do not score individual gains from overzealous efforts to assess the import value of goods at a higher than actual price.

be will not be "blackmailed"

into agreeing to the GOP

because even the risk of a

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Bahrain promotes hiring nationals

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MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain has decided to raise foreign labour fees in a bid to decrease local unemployment, Labour Minister Abdul Nabi Abdallah Al Shola has said.

The fee to renew a foreign work permit is 150 dinars (\$450) compared to 40 dinars (\$108) previously, he told a local newspaper. Al Ayam. The tax on recruiting an expatriate worker will double

to 100 dinars (270) in 1996, he said, adding, however. that this hike excludes the hiring of a housemaid. Mr. Shola said the move

aims at "containing the flow of foreign labour and giving job opportunities to the local work force " The minister last month

said Bahrain's unemployment rate went down to 4.6 per cent in August, from 13.8. per cent at the end of 1993. Bahrain's population was set at 540,000 in 1993, includ-

ing 200,000 foreigners. Bahraini opposition groups in exile say unemployment is one of the main reasons for the riots that broke out in December 1994, which left at . least 12 people dead. The demonstrations cooled down in April.

Bahrain, a small oil producer with 45,000 barrel-perday output, saw its deficit double in 1994, to \$340 million, from \$172 million in 1993, as oil revenues decreased by 17.9 per cent, to \$758 million.

years. Mr. Clinton has said

programme. Mr. Rubin has said it is FORECAST FOR MON-DAY, OCTOBER 16, 1995 irresponsible for Republicans to bold the debt ceiling hostage in the budget debate

By Thomas S. Pierson, -Astrological Foundation

HOROSCOPE

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to know just what it is you want , out life and then to bend your. efforts in such direction. vigorously. TAURUS: (April 20 to May

20) Contact those today who are most experienced in fields of interest to you gain their expertise and support for a new project. GEMINI: (May 21

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21) This is a good day and evening to make as many worthwhile friends as you can. Drive wisely on the highway and be courteous to others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Place your energies on outside affairs directed towards your success and you can make great progress today. The evening is best spent at home with loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You get many excellent ideas. from various sources, so pick out the best and put them in operation early. Avoid one who is jealous of yon.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to get ahead in practical matters today and gain the advice of one who is expert in business and provide you with the answers to pressing ques-

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Have a discussion with clever partners and know what is best to do be more successful in your endeavours. Dress carefully today with the attitude towards advancement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more enthused about your career activities and you can become more proficient at it. Get adverse conditions solved with the aid of fellow associates.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to set up appointments for amusements with friends. Come to an understanding with the one you love.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Give as much. thought as you can today to, family and home affairs and how best to improve them in such a direction to give you. peace of mind.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day for making as many contacts as possible and accomplish a good deal of activities in the outside world.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into practical affairs today and add much to your present abundance. The evening should be spent quietly at home.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



all 40 pages of your report. Luckily, I only deleted the vowels!"

debt could cause turmoil in to trim federal spending and eliminate the deficit in seven financial markets. JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginor Unscramble these four Jumble one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. BREEL UMTAG

KNEBOC NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER, SOME DO THIS. SHATAM Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Peanuts





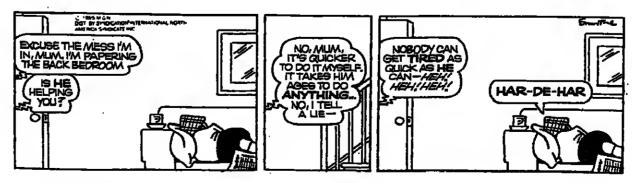


Jumbles: ALIAS HOOBY SNAPPY PERSON

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Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by James and Phyllis Barrick **ACROSS** 1 Energy type: abbr. 5 Embrace 10 Werrior of Greek myth 14 City in Ohio 15 Author Brel 16 Hindu deified 30 27 28 29

17 Enlrance to a mine 18 Great quantity 19 Pesky bug 20 Peslie's male 22 Puts out 24 Pangolin meal

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DOMN 1 Ancient land East

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Yesterday's puzzle solved:

CONCEALING PANT

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Bahrain promotes hiring nationals MANAMA (AFP) Baltrain has decided to be brough labour fees in a be

aring of a housemaid

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Bahrami opposition group

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RHES: (March 21 to Apr.)

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The fee to renew a force sork permit is 150 due \$450) compared to 40 due. \$450) compared to 40 due. Glass previously, he told, ocal newspaper. Al Apar is last on recruiting a spatiatate worker will doe, o 100 duars (270) in 196 as and, adding. Moody's debt rating o 1(n) durars (27th m 192) to said, adding, however har this hike excludes a homeometric beautiful and the control of the cont may invite more foreign Mr. Shola said the moinvestments oh opportunites to thele to .Iordan

★★ JORDAN HAS re-

nent rate went down to i quested Moody's, the renowned U.S. credit rating entity, to give a rating to the Bahram's population to Kingdom's debts as a step et at 540 000 in 1993, inch towards attracting foreign investment to the country, the governor of the Central Bank revealed. It is expected that the rating will be issued before the opening of the Amman Economic Summit on Oct. 29. The governor also revealed that negotiations were underway with France and Germany to reduce Jor-Baltrain, a small oil pa-acer with 45,000 barrelps dan's debts of aboot \$1 billion to the two countries. The chief of the Central Bank, Mohammad Nabulsi. cantioned against expecting immediate returns from the peace process and stressed that the road was long and requiring strenuous work. He said he was not worried about closer economic ties with Israel because the aim was not to achieve an economic merger. Dr. Nabulsi was not worried either if commercial ties with Iraq were broken because "Jordan bad diversified its export markets for some time." On the financial side, Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan was seeking to increase foreign exchange reserves from \$450 million to \$600 million by the end of the year. He indicated that reserves bave not reached that level but; noted that Japan and the World Bank have agreed to

☆★ SOURCES AT the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities have said that 23 development areas had been pecified on the 60-kilometre shore of the Dead Sea but their development would be done in two stages. The first, until the year 2000, include providing 3,200 beds for developiog the Sweimeb area. Of the total number of beds, 800 would be in hotels, 1,200 in bousing units and another 1,200 in apartments. According to the sources, the first stage will also include therapeutical facilities as the area characterised by natural therapeutic resources. In this context, studies have set the level of water at the Dead Sea at 395 metres "below sea level." The plans which have been adopted include basic ad provide you with the designs for ten development regioos balf of them in Sweimeh and the other half in Zara (Al Dustour).

provide loans to cover the

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IBRA: (Septembel 25 R ctobe) 22) Have a discusin with clevel partners and you what is best to dole ore successful in your er * A DRAFT document of the proposed Middle East envirus Press carefult is iv with the attitude toward Development Bank sets the bank's capital at \$5 billion divided into paid up shares ORPIO: 1 Clerobet 25 N and demand shares the value aveniber 211 Be more cut of which is to be determined ed about your careet sent at a later date. It will be is and you can beome obligatory on the funding ore proficient at it is members of the bank to pay Serve conditions solved the first instalment within the the aid of fellow meet three months from the date of putting the bank's funding. GITTARUS: (November agreement into effect. The to December 21) This 63 remaining amount should be od day to set up appute the for anomenicals with paid after one year from the date of setting the first instalends Come to an under ment. The plan plan is to anding with the one of spread the payment of capital into five instalments at a rate PRICORN: December of 20 per cent of the total January 20) (inc. as mid subscription of each country. such its you do today it As to the administrative mily and home afters and wheel to improve thema structure, the draft document sees an organisational chart that direction to give put of a president, an advisory council representing the par-MARIUS: (January 10) bruary 191 This is a sign ticipating country and a governing council where all the powers are concentrated. y for making as many on Only those countries committo its possible and leads sed to peace in the region and supporting bilateral and sh a good deal of activities the outside world. multilateral negotiations SCFS: (February 10 10 would be allowed memirch 20 Ciet into practic bership, the draft document arch 20) Ciet into prachib ans today and add much the needs. The bank's loans and credits to be extended should

not exceed the capital of the

bank which will not engage in

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schemes (Al Aswaq).

Jordan sees major foreign capital from Amman summit

By Suleiman Al Khalidi Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan said Sunday it expects this month's Middle East and North Africa summit, aided by liberalised investment laws, to spawn multi-million dollar joint ventures.

'I think we will have the ability with the new investment laws and better investment climate to attract fore-

ign investment and compete with all the neighbouring states, having put ourselves ahead of them in many areas," said Ali Abul Ragheb, minister of industry and trade.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, said in an interview that even before the summit Jordan was attracting private foreign commitments in some of the 27 major projects - to cost over \$3.5 billion - and 136

private sector projects to be submitted to the summit. More than 1,000 govern-

ment leaders and businessmen will attend the summit, a follow up to last year's Casablanca summit that for the first time brought together Arab and Israeli

political and business leaders. The minister said other countries wanted investment but Jordan would offer a. better climate as a regional

when CTC consumer pro-

hub with attractive returns. He said Jordan believed the Middle East peace pro- ter, energy and telecomcess was "shifting global foreign interest to the region with a more secure political future that offered lucrative investment opportunities for the first time."

More than half the proposed \$3.5 billion in projects were in tourism and industrial plans, with the private sector investing for the first time in infrastructure and utilities, including railways, wamunications.

An investment law passed last month widens the scope of foreign ownership and should also draw foreign capital into the Amman ex-Mr. Abul Ragheb said pro-

jects would be offered at the summit on a BOT (build, operate, transfer) and BOO (build, operate and own) basis, including a \$405 mil-lion project to exploit water from the Disi aquifer on the border with Saudi Arabia. Mr. Abul Ragheb, who heads the national committee preparing for the summit. said there was "huge demand for foreign tourism investments on the Agaba coast and the Dead Sea."

He also said major ventures in the pipeline include a Jordanian-Israeli project to exploit Dead Sea minerals with the Arab Potash Company, announced as a fait accompli by Israel last week. Jordan wants \$142 million in foreign capital for a complex

for bromine. He also said Jordan was working on a venture with Norway's Norsk Hydro firm to set up a fertilizer plant with Jordan Phosphates

Jordan plans to transform the Red Sea coast south of Aqaba into a major resort with tourist villages, golf and Disney-style amusement cen-

Mr. Abul Ragheb said along with a \$120 million U.S. private tourism investment in the Agaba coast, Jordan was about to lease four tracts on the Dead Sea for construction of four major hotel complexes.

The project is the first to allow foreign investment in land on the Dead Sea, a close military area until Jordan's peace treaty with Israel last October ended 46 years of

Disney expects 10-fold rise in Gulf sales

DUBAN (R) — The Walt Disney Company expects sales of its products in the Gulf, where half the population is under 15, to grow tenfold to \$500 million within the next 10 years, but piracy remains a problem, officials

Disney consumer products Eorope, Middle East and Africa President Pierre Sissmaoo told Reuters that annual Disney sales in the region were currently worth between \$40-\$50 million. "If we apply the natural growth rate in mature mar-kets (to the Gulf) 10 years from oow we should be at half-a-billion dollars," he

The Gulf is a young mar-ket, with about half the population of around 23 million under the age of 15, Mr. Sissmann said. Children's infloence on purchasing decisions was significant.

Inadequate or nowexistent copyright laws a few years ago meant Disney products were not sold in the region before mid-1993,

Financial Markets

Jordan Times

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 10-October 13, 1995)

AMMAN - The U.S. unit appreciated modestly against other major currencies last week. It ended the week 0.33 per cent higher against the mark, 0.57 per cent higher against sterling and 0.42 per cent higher against the yen.

While New York was closed on an official holiday Monday, the dollar declined against the mark Tuesday. Its depreciation came on the back of weak performance of the U.S. stock market, Reports indicated that the Dow Jones industrial average lost 66 points during trading hours, only to reverse and end the day down by a mere five points. News that an earthquake hit the southern part of Mexico also weighed on the dollar, as dealers assessed its impact on the Mexican economy.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Wednesday, however, on news that political turmoil in France had eased. Reports indicating that the French prime minister would not be convicted for a dubious lease of a housing unit owned by the city of Paris drove the French franc higher against the Deutschemark. However, analysts suspected that such respite for the franc would prove temporary as France continues to suffer from an excessive budget deficit and costly entitlement programmes. They also stressed that the dollar might be negatively affected by the poor performance of the Mexican economy, especially if Mexico fails to service its debts, which are mostly owed to U.S. entities.

The dollar depreciated against other major currencies Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was slow and attributed the dollar's decline to technical factors. Meanwhile, the market ignored comments by the president of the Bundesbank that a strong dollar is beneficial to both the United States and the international economy.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies at the end of the week, however. The dollar rose on the back of a U.S. bond market raily. The release of the U.S. consumer price index and retail sales showing a rise of 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent in September, respectively, reassured investors that the U.S. economy is witnessing a softlanding, a scenario entailing low growth and weak inflanionary pressures. Soon after the release of these figures, the yield on the 30-year U.S. Treasury bonds tumbled to a 20-month low of 6.3 per cent. Rumours that the Bank of Japan might consider another cut in its discount rate, to a new all-time low of 0.25 per cent also lent support to the

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4265 marks. 100.97 yen and at \$1.5740 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

Currency	Oct 6 - 1995 Close	Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5830	1.5740	(0.57) %
Deutsche Mark	1.4218	1.4265	(0.33) %
Swiss Franc	1.t450	1.1545	(0.82) %
French Franc	4,9955	4.9620	0.68 %
Japanese Yen	100.55	100.97	(0.42) %
• USD I'- STC			

I-Mondy (%)	I-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1- Year (%)
5.72	5.68	5.69	5.65
6.62	6,62	6.68	7.06
3.95	3.95	3.93	3.93
2.00	2.12	2.00	2,25
6.37	6.00	5.62	6.18
0.50	0.56	0.28	0.25
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Central Bank of Jordan Rechange Rate Bulletin

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Belgian Franc

CCHICAL DAILS OF SOLORIN LAN	Date:	October - 15 - 1992	
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7t20	0.7140	
Sterling Pound	t,t188	1,1244	
Deutsche Mark	0.4983	0.5008	
Swiss l'ranc	0.6138	0.6t 69	
French Franc	0.1434	0.1441	
Japanese Yen•	0.7056	0.7091	
Dutch Gullder	0.4452	0.4474	
Swedish Krona			
Italian Lira*	0.0444	0.0446	

ducts — a joint venture be-tween the Walt Disney Co and Saudi Arabia's Jawa the region, Syria was a source family — was set up. Although copyright laws had recently been intro-

duced, pirated products still plagued Disney in the Middle "Copyright (violation) is

still a problem. It is dimi-nishing, but it is still around," CTC Presideot Ahmad Jawa

Sporting a flowing white robe, the traditional Arab Gulf dress, with Mickey Mouse embroidered on the breast pocket, Mr. Jawa said within the region the United Arab Emirates (UAEs') coforcement of copyright laws was the best.

A number of successful raids on stores carrying fake merchandise in the UAE had been carried out.

"In Saudi Arabia we are starting to get enforcement, but we are always looking for more. In Kuwait it started in Angust, and Qatar and Bahraio should come on line soon, but there's no positive

movement in Oman yet," Mr. Jawa added. In Egypt, almost all Disney apparel was fake and within

of pirated goods, he added. Mr. Jawa said most Disney consumer products sold in the Middle East were imported from Europe, the Far East and the U.S. But CTC was trying to foster local manufacturing.

"It would give the local cultural touch," Mr. Sissmann said, adding that translating books, films, videos and magazines into Arabic was an important part of Disney's drive for market share in the region. Sales of the Arabic video

of the blockbuster hit "The Lion King," which was recently launched in the Middle East, were expected to be very good, Mr. Jawa said.

He would not give a sales forecast.

Over 30 million copies of "The Lion King" video have been sold so far in the United States, making it the most popular video ever.

U.S., Palestinian companies sign first hi-tech venture

GAZA (R) — Samco, a Palestinian computer company based in the West Bank. and TMA, a U.S. company for technological administration, signed an agreement in Gaza Sunday to manufacture and export electronic instruments, officials said.

. This was the first concrete deal to result from an investment mission to Gaza in July by the Overseas Private Investment Corp (OPIC). U.S. Consul General Edward Abington said during the signing ceremony.

OPIC aims to set up invest-

ment projects between the Palestinian and U.S. private

high-tech industry. It's very important that we move from the old industry of clothing, shoes, and vegetables into the level of high technology," said Nabil Shaath, head of planning for the Palestinian Authority.

"This is the start of our

Sameo is based in Nablus. The head of the Nablus Municipal Council, Ghasan Al Ahaka, said the deal was "the starting point of cooperation with the United States."

He did not disclose the value of the deal but said the . joint venture will be 75 per cent Palestinian capital and 25 per cent American.

TELEPHONE: 607171	HMAN - SHMKT			,
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BANK OF JOHDAN	3458	12718	3.700	3.660
HIDOLY KAST INVESTMENT BANK.	3000	3720	1.230	1.240
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3613	5526	2.360	2.360
TORDAN KUWAIT BANK	731	2038	2.810	2.790
IDEDAY TETAMIC DANK	20300	23549	1.170	1.160
INION SERV FOR CAUTAG & THORSESSOR	795	2940	3.680	3.700
MISTRESS BANK	4139	15521	3.750	3.750
DORDAN INVESTMENT & PYMANCH DAKE	1100	3795	3.480	3.450
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eran paper comventing e trading	3250	4618	1.430	3,470
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KORDAN ROCKWOOL DIOUSTRIES	4250	4685	1,100	1,100
INIVERSAL CHENTCAL INOUISTRIES	100	320	3,270	3,200
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MIVERSAL MODERS INDOSTRIES	1750	5535	5.170	. 3.150
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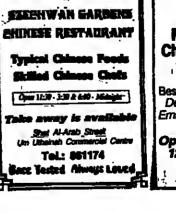
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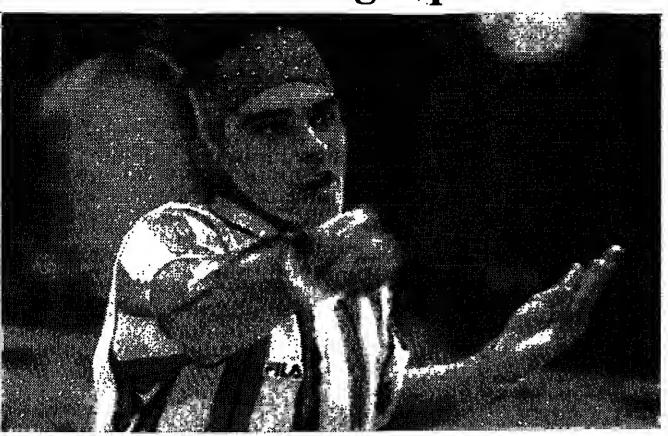
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Mark Philippoussis of Australia returns a forehand against Michael Chang of the United States in the

singles final of the Seiko Super tennis tournament in Tokyo (Reuters photo)

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penholders have dwindled

Kim and China's world

runner-up Liu Guoliang were

the only penholders at the

16-strong, men's singles

World Cup here this week.

"The penholder backhand

since the late 80s.

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Michael Chang of the United States easily overcame the bullet serves of giant-killing Australian Mark Philippoussis on Sunday to capture the \$1.02 million Seiko Super

Tennis Tournament. Chang, ranked fifth in the world, displayed a remarkable range of shots and kept up steady pressure on Philippoussi to take his first Seiko title 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 20 minutes.

Chang, the runner-up at last year's tournament, used a variety of return shots to blunt the powerful serve of the young Australian, who disposed of three seeded players in fighting his way through to the final.

"I think he was starting to get frustrated because I was able to get quite a few of his serves back." Chang said. "Over the last couple of weeks I don't think he was used to seeing many of his serves come back."

Philippoussis, nicknamed 'scud" after the destructive Gulf war missile, came into Sunday's final with 55 service aces against Chang's 26. But he only managed seven aces

against Chang's eight in the

Philippoussis faced twelve service break points and at times appeared raffled by the range and placing of Chang's returns.

"He was really gearing to my serves and putting a lot of pressure on me," said Philippoussis.

The 18-year-old Melbourne native showed promise in breaking Chang's service in the third game of the first set, but was broken straight back. Philippousis, ranked 60

this week, used his powerful serve to survive three match points in game nine of the second set, notching back 10 back service aces and winning another point.

In the next game, Philip-pousis briefly threatened to break Chang's service until the American smashed the winning shot. The unseeded Philippousis

earned the right to play Chang with upsets of fifth Stefan Edberg of seed Sweden, 11th seed Breit Steven of New Zealand, and fourth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.



Michael Chang uf the United States shows uff the trophy after winning the singles final of the Seiko Super tennis tournament (Reuters photo)

World's best penholder says European grip better

and Jiang Jialiang in 1984.

But since then, only players

with the European style have

taken the World Cup title.

South Korea in the 1995

world men's team event, said

it was not just coincióence

Kim a bronze medallist for

NIMES, France (AFP) — South Korea's Kim Taek Soo, the world's best penholder, was in no doubt the European shakehand grip was now more effective in the world of table tennis.

Kim, who reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles world cup here, added: "If I could start my career again. I would use a shakehand grip."

The European grip, with fingers wrapped around the bat, evolved from the traditional Western tradition of shaking hands. Whereas the penholder style was more natural for Asians - they gripped the bat as though

they were using chopsticks or holding a pen.

Penholders won men's singles world titles from 1977 to 1987 — Japan's Mitsuri Kohno in 1977, Japan's Seuji Ono in 1979, China's Guo Yuehua in 1981 and 1983. and China's Jiang Jialiang in 1985 and 1987.

From 1989 to now, players with a Western grip have won the world title. The 1995 champion Kong Linghui turned a new page in Chinese table tennís history as he won with a European grip.

Three of the first five editions of the World Cup were won by penholders — Guo Yuehua in 1980 and 1982,

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is much weaker than a Western grip backhand," said 25year-old world number four Kim, "Before fast glue came on the scene, it was more difficult to exploit the weaker penholder backhand."

"But when fast glue came to be used by nearly all the top players, it became easier to exploit.

Kim believed it was a deliberate decision by Chinese coaches to train more Westem grip players.

The Olympic bronze medallist in men's doubles. also admitted if he had his time over again, he would use a Western grip.

"I would start with a shakehand grip because it's easier. The backhand and the block is more difficult for a penholder. I don't have those problems becaue I worked very hard at those shots.

Jean-Philippe Gatien of France, the 1993 world champion, said Asian players, and in particul lar, have always had players in their squad with European grips. Gatien said: There are

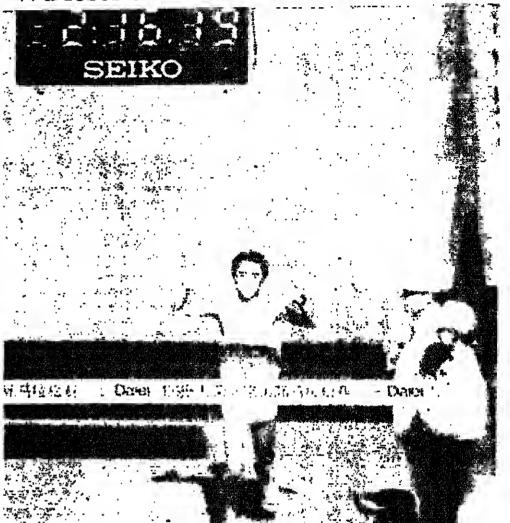
a natural progression as they realise the benefits to their backhand." Commonwealth and North

just more of them now - it's

American champion Johnny Huang of Canada agreed with kim the faster game has sounded a death knell for penholders.

"In the past, penholders who were fast around the court could play forehands all the time. You cannot do that these days and everybody needs a good backhand. Huang said.

Wu loses chance to win 3rd marathon



Meng Xianhui

BEIJING (AFP) — China's Meng Xianhui stopped compatriot Hu Gangjun winning a third straight Beijing

marathon on Sunday. Meng, 21, won the men's race in 2hrs 10min and 20sec. and his coach said he could

do even better. Defending champion Hu clocked 2:16:29, nearly six minutes slower than his best time in 1994, the Xinhua News Agency said. Hu has been plagued by a

foot injury all season. Meng pulled away from Hu, Vladmir Kotov of Belarus and Nelson Ndepeva of Kenya in the last two

kilometres. Kotov was third at 2:16:39 and Ndepeva fourth at 2:17:13. Despite his victory Meng said he was not satisfied with the result. Meng's coach Zhang Fuxin said with

three years - which would make him an Olympic and world title candidate.

wind

14 Pakistar

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missing

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Ren Xiuiuan of China won the women's race in two hours 30 minutes, followed by another Chinese runner Zheng Guixia in 2:33:32 and Natalia Galushko of Belarus in 2:34:00

China fielded a team of 10 reasonable practise. Meng male and 10 female runners could run a 2hr 111 min in the field of 317 entrants marathon in the next two or from 17 countries.

ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

In accordance with article (28-B) of the Central Bank of Jordan law No. (23) of 1971, the Central Bank of Jordan will put in circulation, as from Oct. 16, 1995, a new coin of the denomination (1 Dinar) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The new 1 Dinar coin is legal tender and will circulate alongside the bank notes and coins issued according to the Bylaw of Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

Denomination: 1 Dinar Alloy: 5.5% Nickel, 24.5% Zinc, 70% Copper

Diameter: 32 mm Thickness: 2.1 mm Weight: 12.4 gm Shape: Heptagonal Edge: Plain

The obverse of the new coin bears an effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal", "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic.

The reverse incorporates: The logo of the FAO.

The denomination (one Dinar) written in Arabic and English.

The Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue.
The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

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Atletico stay on top

MADRID. Spain (AP) — Argentine Diego Pablo Simeone made a first-half goal Saturday to keep Atletico de Madrid unbeaten and on top of the standings with a 1-0 victory over Deportivo de la Coruna.

Simeone squeezed in his fourth goal of the season all of them made on headers - in the last minute before the break at his home sta-The first-division's other

unbeaten team also stayed that way, as Barcelona trampled Athletic de Bilbao 4-1. The victory kept Barcelona in second place with 20 points, two behind Atletico. No 3 Espanyol also won Saturday. sweeping over Sevilla 3-0 to stay one point behind Barce-

Barcelona owed half its goals to two of its young suprises, both up from the club's second-division team this season, who continued to outshine some of their elders.

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Both vulnerable, South deals, NORTH • A J 10

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SOUTH 4 K 7 6 7 A Q J 10 4 A 10 6 4 A K 6

WEST NORTH EAST Page 34 Page Page 60 Page

Opening lead: Nine of \(\mathcal{O}\)
Never underestimate the power of a trump suit. Even when two balanced hands are facing each other, the contract will often play better in a suit fit than in no trump. Consider this deal from a team match.
Onca South opened two no trump, wild horses would not have been able to stop North short of alam. At one table, simple addition and balanced distribution convinced North to raise directly to the no-

trump slam. At the other, the ruff-ing value in clubs prompted North to probe for a heart fit, which led to a final contract of six hearts. The nina of bearts was lad at bot of tables. Where the contract was played in

Where the contract was played in no trump, declarer adopted a line that offered excellent chances for success. The opening lead was won with dummy's king and a diamond to the ten lost to the queen. After capturing Weat's beart return, declarer first tested for an even diamond epitt, without luck, than cashed the remaining beart winners followed by three rounds of clubs, discarding dummy's remaining diamond on the last.

With 10 tricks played Section

ing diamond on the last.

With 10 tricks played, South learned that West had started with four cards in each red suit and at least three clubs, so the odds heavily favored East to hold the queen of spades. Going with the percentages, declarer exceed to the ace of spades and ran the jack. Down two.

Six baarts at the other table proved to be a breeze. After cashing a second heart to discover the break declarer exched three rounds of clubs, discarding a spade from dummy. The ace and king of spades were played and a spade ruff provided the 12th trick.

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Sandra Bullack & Bill Pullman

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 .

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Arnold Schwartzeneger..in Conan The Barbarian Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

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Deaths number some 500 since 1884

LONDON (R) — Around the world some 500 boxers have died in the ring or as a result of being injured in a fight since the Marquis of Queensberry rules were introduced in 1884.

Recent deaths and serious injuries include:

September 1995 - Lee Dong-Choon of South Korea died of acute subdural haematoma following his dressing room collapse after he lost to Japan bantamweight champion Setsuo Kawamasu in a 10-round bout in Tokyo on September 5. He did not recover consciousness after undergoing

May 1995 — Jimmy Garcia of Colombia, badly beaten in a losing challenge for the World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight title against Mexican Garbriel Ruelas in Las Vegas, passed out in bis corner. He underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain but lapsed into a coma and died two weeks later.

February 1995 - American Gerald McClellan needed brain surgery to remove a blood dot after being knocked out by Briton Nigel Benn in a WBC supermiddleweight title fight in London.

After more than a month in hospital he was flown home, still requiring full-time nursing care, to continue his rebabilitation nearer family and friends.

July 1994 - Las Vegasbased former Olympic welterweight gold medallist Wangila Napunyi of Kenya collapsed shortly after being stopped in the ninth round by world-ranked American David Gonzalez and died after an operation to remove a

blood clot from his brain. It was the first death resulting from a boxing match in Nevada since 1982 when South Korean Kim Deuk-Koo died of head injuries

sustained in a bout against World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight cham-pion Ray Mancini of the United States

The outery over Kim's death resulted in world title bouts being reduced from 15 to I2 rounds.

Apri 1994 - Superbantamweight Bradley Stone, 23, died two days after suffering brain damage fol-lowing a punishing Britisb tirle fight with Richie Wen-

March 1994 — Heavyweight Michael Bentt of the United States was rusbed to hospital following his World Boxing Organisa-tion (WBC) heavyweight title defeat by Herbie Hide in London. Doctors found he had cumulative damage to his brain from years of punches and told bim to retire from boxing.

-January 1993 -- Yasuji Hamakawa of Japan, a 23-year-old lightweight, died in hospital without regaining consciousness three weeks after being floored twice in the seventh round of an eightround title bout in Osaka, western Japan.

December 1991 Japanese junior featherweight Minoru Katsumata. 20, died after falling into a coma following a 10th round stoppage by compatriot Takashi Hurata in Tokyo.

1991 — Michael Watson spent 40 weeks in a coma and was left brain-damaged and confined to a wheelchair following his world title defeat in London by fellow Briton Chris Eubank

November 1991 - South African Olive Skwebe died in hospital nine days afte being knocked out. Skwese, 20, had undergone two brain operations and lapsed into a coma after he was knocked out in the eighth round by Ndoda Mayende in a flyweight bout on November 17.

Boxer pronounced clinically dead

GLASGOW (R) — Scottish boxer James Murray, who collapsed at the end of a fight on Friday, was pronounced dead early on Sunday.

Boxing authorities have launched an investigation into rioting which broke out immediately after Murray collapsed in the ring. Five fans were hurr as chairs, bortles and glasses were thrown. Murray underwent

emergency surgery at Glas-gow's South Central Hospital to remove a blood clot from his brain. But the 25-year-old bantamweight never regained "By late yesterday all signs of neurological activity were Murray's extinct," said Garth Cruickshank, the consultant neurosurgeon who performed the two-hour operation on Friday night. "We performed a set of criteria then to establish

whether that was the case. "I again carried out a set of brain dearh criteria this morning and pronounced Mr. Murray dead at 0850."

Several newspaper reporters who were at the ringside in a Glasgow hotel on Friday said drunken rioters throwing bottles had delayed paramedics by vital seconds as they tried to reach the strickMurray's opponent, British

title holder Drew Docherty. was said to be devastated at the news of Murray's death. He issued a joint statement

with his manager Tommy Gilmour saying: "Words just cannot express how badly we feel about James's death... Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

The British Medical Association on Sunday repeated its calls for boxing to be

"This is yet another individual tragedy which high-lights the fact that boxing is not a safe sport." a spokesman said.
"While the head remains a target there will continue to

be tragedies like this and there will be chronic brain damage to a majority of box-"Doctors will continue to

for society to decide whether it can tolerate the continuing tragic waste of young lives in the name of sport. Leading British promoter Frank Warren said on Salur-

warn of the dangers but it is

Police are studying video film of the rioting to try to

day he found it hard to justify the sport in the light of what had happened.

British Board of Boxing Control General Secretary John Morris described as "one of the most disgusting scenes I've seen."

The Independent on Sunday's ringside reporter Derrick Whyte said bottles were thrown as soon as Murray

"Paramedics rushing to the ring to assist the stricken fighter were hindered by those in their path."
Steve Buncf, the Sunday

Telegraph's boxing correspondent, said many fans who had paid a reduced price to queting room where the fight was staged were clearly drunk.

"The scenes ... were sickening, with bare-chested men smearing blood from head wounds across their chests and aimlessly throwing bottles and glasses in all direc-

tions." he said. But Dr. Cruickshank said the rioting bad probably made no difference to Murray's fate.

"My own feelings would be that after the injury had actually occurred the pathology took its course," he said.

Don King employee gets immunity, testifies

NEW YORK (AP) - An employee of Don King's began testimony in the boxing promoter's insurance fraud case Friday after receiving

immunity from prosecution.
Gladys Rosa, who worked as a translator for the boxing promoter, is the first of several witnesses the government plans to offer immunity to as it tries to prove King submitted a fake contract to Lloyd's of London in 1991 to recover \$350.000 illegally.

Rosa smiled at King and he smiled back as she headed for the witness stand.

King, 63, one of the most powerful men in boxing, is charged with nine counts of mail fraud. Each is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He is free on a \$250,000 personal recognisance bond.

In their opening statement earlier this week, prosecutors said Rosa would testify that she never saw a version of a contract between King and WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez even though she served as an interpreter for them.

Chavez, who speaks mostly Spanish, had to cancel his

June 1991 bout with Harold Brazier after he hurt his nose

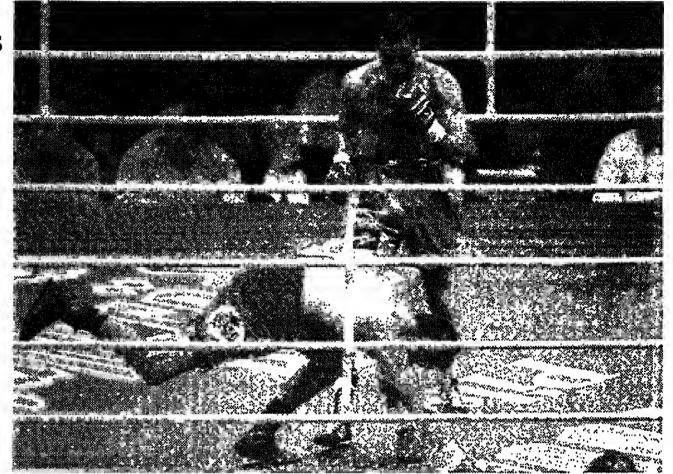
Rosa, who testified only briefly in a short court session Friday, said one of her early assignments for the promoter came when she was asked to go to Mexico with King. Mike Tyson and others to persuade Chavez to break a deal he had made to work for rival promoter Bob Arum.

She said King won Chavez back in part by telling him that he could guarantee purses of \$2 million a fight by putting the bouts on pay-perview television rather than cable television.

She said she began working for King in 1990, when she made \$4,000 to \$5,000. Her pay reached its peak in 1994.

when she was paid \$270,000. Rosa said she has no written agreement to work for King but does her job as pari of an oral contract thar guarantees her \$8,330 a month plus bonuses and expenses.

She said he loaned her \$111,000 in 1992 but she has not repaid the money or any



Challenger Graciano Roccigiani of Germany touches the ground during his fight against defending IBF lightheavyweight boxing champion Hehry Maske from Germany

Washington,

Ferreira advance to final

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — American Malivai Wasbington beat Aranaud Boetsch of France 6-3, 6-2 to advance into the final of the \$400,000 Czech Indoor men's tennis tournament Saturday.

In a replay of last year's final Washington broke Boetsch for a 4-2 lead and finished off the first set in 32 minutes. The unseeded American

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continued his solid baseline play in the second set, capitalising on Boetsch's unforced errors. I think I hit the ball pretty

well and he didn't play as well as he would have liked." Washington said after the match.

In the other semifinal of the day, Wayne Ferreira of South Africa defeated Germany's Patrik Kuehnen 6-2,

Both players traded service breaks at the beginning of the first set with Ferreira consolidating his game first and winning 6-2. Kuchnen rallied in the

second set and had three set points at 5-4, but the thirdseeded Ferreira finally won the match after the German sent a backband into the net.

14 Pakistani soccer players missing in Japan

TOKYO (AP) - A total of 14 soccer players from Pakistan were reported missing Saturday after taking part in an Asian Club Championship match.

Kyodo news service said. Kyodo, quoting unnamed officials of the Football Association of Japan, said the 14 were part of a 27member Crescent Soccer Club team from Pakistan.

None of the t4 scheduled to return home on a Pakistani airliner flight that took off from Narita Airport Saturday afternoon showed up at the airport. Kyodo said. So far, only 11 of the team have left, it added.

The reported said some Japanese sports officials speculated the missing soccer players stayed behind to look for jobs.

Football association officials were not immediately available for comment.

Panel recalled to probe Murray tragedy

GLASGOW (R) - An independent panel set up after the death of boxer Bradley Stone last year will meet again to discuss the implications of the

James Murray tragedy.
The panel, chaired by top neurosurgeon Peter Richards, is likely to look at issues such as medical facilities at the ringside and the number and duration of rounds at title fights.

It was formed to advise the British Boxing Board of Control after superbantamweight Stone, 23, died two days after suffering brain damage in a British title

fight in April 1994.
Richards, or Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, said on Sunday: "We delivered a report to the board a few weeks ago outlining a number of suggestions which we hope will make things a bit safer. You can never make it totally

'We will call another meeting and consider what happened over the weekend and decide whether any additions should be made to the

Its recommendations currently include: - Replacing brain scans with

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the more sophisticated magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

- Reviewing rules governing weigh-ing before matches to ensure boxers do not dehydrate to meet the weight requirements

- Looking at the number of rounds in a match and the length of each round to see whether they are too exacting and whether the boxers have competed over that distance

Considering longer intervals between rounds. The board's chief medical officer Adrian Whiteson.

EGYPTAIR

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EGYATHIR

who also sits on the panel, said he expected the board would publish new guidelines within a month.

But he acknowledged that some measures — such as MR1 scans — might meet opposition from the boxing

and because it might lead to boxers leaving the sport. "But if we legislate or if to accept it.

world on the grounds of cost doctors make recommendations then the promoters and managers of boxers have got

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Ciller calls for snap polls after losing vote

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller lost a parliamentary vote of confidence on Sunday, and immediately called for snap general elections.

"Democracy and the country now need a very early general election." Ms. Ciller told parliament minutes after the final results were announced. She mentioned no date for the polls.

Thousands of workers took to the streets of Ankara earlier on Sunday to demand a "no" vote, after Ms. Ciller rejected their latest wage de-

Legislators earlier voted 230 to 190 to refuse confidence in Ms. Ciller's minority government which she set up on Oct. 5 after securing the conditional support of the small Party of the Democratic Left (DSP) which has 10 seats and the ultra-nationalist Nationalist Action Party (MHP) of Alapsian Turkes, which holds 17 seats.

The DSP of Bulent Ecevit earlier threatened to vote against Ms. Ciller's government unless she immediately resolved the massive strike by public workers.

General elections were last

held in Turkey in October 1991 and would normally be due in October next year. The earliest possible date would be mid-December, as a minimum of two months is

needed for preparation. Under the country's constitution, parliament must decide whether or not the date should be brought forward. President Suleyman Demirel can also decide to call fresh

Ms. Ciller has come under attack for resisting early elections and taking a hardline with striking civil servants. She claimed an early election would harm her economic austerity programmes and set back prospects for a customs union with the European Un-

Instead, she formed the minority government last week to replace the coalition that collapsed in September in a dispute over the beltnightening measures.

In her speech to parliament after the vote, Ms. Ciller said ber party paid the price for not giving into pay demands by strikers.

We did not put interests before the interests of the country... our head remains high, bigh enough to touch

the sky," she said. Ms. Ciller's failure will prolong the political crisis and may give conservative

parties a chance at gaining the upper hand. A right-leaning government may make it difficult to pass democratisation laws or lift limits on freedom of ex-pression as demanded by the European Parliament. The reforms are necessary for

Turkey's proposed customs

union with the European Un-

ion at the end of the year. The alternative to Ms. ciller's minority coalition may be a broad-based government, including the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, which is against stronger European ties. But no radical changes are immediately expected to Turkey's Western-oriented

policies or its role in the

NATO military alliance.

Ms. Ciller told parliament last week that she would appeal for elections on Dec. 15 if she failed to secure the confidence vote. Although her centre-right Truth Path Party is the largest in parliament with 177 seats, it will be difficult for Ms. Ciller to impose her date on the legisla-

Talibans, Rabbani stymied in battle

bel Taliban gunmen failed to breach the Afghan capital's defence Sunday, but a spokesman claimed the opposition force had captured at least 25 government

For the fifth consecutive day, opposition fighters and government soldiers exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire in the Rishkor hills at Kabul's southern city

. One rocket landed in the southern suburb of Karte Se. killing five people and wounding at least 15 others, a bospital official told the Associated Press.

The rocket landed outside the Afghan Red Crescent medical dispensary near a crowded market.

KABUL (Agencies) - Re- opposition forces have been unable to make any headway in their offensives and coun-

> ter offensives. One government commander said bis troops had been unable to make any progress against dug-in Talibans gun-

> "The situation of southern Kabul has not changed although there were exchanges of heavy weapons fire." said government spokesman Amrullah, who like many Afghans uses only

> Amrullah, however, said government troops had moved forward against opposition positions on the

western city of Kabul
"We have taken the whole of the Sanglakh Valley. Amrullab said of the western Both government and district 20 kilometres from

Kabul, "We managed to capture the areas we were not in control of just this morning.

A Taliban spokesman in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar claimed his troops had captured at least 25 government soldiers near Rish-

The claim could not be immediately confirmed. Former Islamic students. the Talibans are aiming to topple the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military ally. Ahmad Shah Masoud.

However, according to reliable sources, the government forces suffered a setback Saturday when the Talibans recaptured the border region of Islam-Qala, which had reportedly fallen to the advancing troops several

hours earlier.

Prince Hassan urges preachers to adopt moderation, advocate zakat

AMMAN (Petra) - His Prince underlined the need Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met on Sunday with mosque preachers and imams and urged them to benefit from studies of ulemas and scholars who have been holding meetings in Amman, stressing that these studies constitute an important source that belps them in

handling current issues. Addressing the opening of a cultural seminar by imams working for the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Crown

BEIRUT (R) — The

Lebanese · government

moves on Modnay to ex-

tend the term of pro-

Syrian President Elias

Hrawi without holding

elections in what has been

called a "stab in the back"

for Lebanese democracy.

scenario outlined by offi-

cials, the cabinet and par-

liament will petition Mr.

Hrawi, wbose six-year

term ends on Nov. 24, to

stav another three years

by means of a constitu-

tional amendment to be

Mr. Hrawi, a 65-year-

old Maronite Christian,

lacks charisma and popu-

larity but is seen as a good

friend by Syrian leaders whose 35,000 troops in

Lebanon make them the

country's main power

Mr. Hrawi has held

Office since 1989. He was

hurriedly co-opted in the

closing year of the 1975-90

civil war after the car-

bombing of his predeces-

sor Rene Muawad within

lectuals, journalists and

members of parliament -

mostly Christians - have

Some politicians, intel-

days of his election.

voted by parliament.

Under a Syrian-backed

for the preachers to offer spiritual guidance to the young generation in the Armed Forces.

Prince Hassan urged the preachers to adopt and practise a centrist or moderate approach with which one can handle issues of injustice, stressing that Islam rejects injustice and oppression and seeks justice for all.

Beirut plans controversial

presidential term extension

opposed Mr. Hrawi's ex-

tension for months, but it

is expected to win approv-

al without difficulty when

parliament votes the

amendment on Thursday.

the beginning of the end

for Lebanese democracy,

moving the country sharp-

ly towards the stereotyped

Arab model of long-

serving rulers co-opted by

obedient parliaments to

repeated terms of office.

A columnist in the con-

servanive Beirut daily Al

Nahar, which has cam-

paigned vigorously

against the extension, said

it would adapt Lebanon to

the regional environment

and give it membership of

"the club of Arab regim-

"Let those in power ap-

plaud themselves because

they will prove... that the

Lebanese system now be-

longs to the biggest Arab

crisis, the crisis of the

legitimacy of the regim-

es," the columnist, a Sun-

Christians, many of

wbom resent Syria's con-

trol of Lebanon since the

civil war, have been parti-

cularly outspoken, saying

the country was in-

ni Muslim, wrote.

Opponents say it will be

Referring to new terms in social and political life including the term cultural norma-

lisation. Prince Hassan said that one had to draw the line and differentiate between normalisation in terms of cultural interaction and sub-

He said that Islam in the modern age should opt for openness and interaction with other cultures.

Crown Prince Hassan repeated a call for establishing a zakat (alms for the poor) fund serving the Islamic nation, whereby the wealthy extend offer help to the poor.

creasingly becoming a Sy-

They say there is no crisis or domestic

Lebanese interest that

justifies suspending the presidential election and

that the authorities have

offered no public justifica-

admit privately that the

decision has been Syria's

and that Damascus pre-

fers to retain Mr. Hrawi

while it confronts

threatened regional isola-

tion and unfinished peace

As Lebanon's constitu-

tion now stands, parlia-

ment must elect a new

president before Mr. Hra-

wi's term expires next

month. It bars the incum-

bent from reelection and

makes no provision for extending his term.

Last week 128 intellec-

tuals appealed to parlia-

ment against the exten-

sion, saying: "The choice

is between holding elec-

tions that restore to the

nation its right to free

choice... or stabbing

democracy in the back

and treating the Lebanese

as an immature nation

under custodianship.

talks with Israel.

Government officials

rian colony.

tion for it.

and called on preachers to help advocate this cause in Friday's sermons.

Prince Hassan also mct with engineers working for the Jordanian Armed Forces. praising their contributions to the country's development and in training the young generation for achieving that goal. He also urged the officers to give due attention to the need for integration between natural and human resources for development.

Village of Pugwash suddenly finds itself on the map

RUSSIAGE WAS

OSLO, Norway (AP) -When Committee Friday that Joseph Rotblat his Conferences won the 1995 peace prize, many immediately asked "Pugwhat?"
"Pugwhere" would have been more precise. Pugwash is a fishing village of 775 people in westem Nova Sconn. Canada, where scientists first got together in 1957 to try to protect humanity from their own inventions, namely nuclear weapons. The Pugwash Conferences are now held in the village every third year. Having Pugwash — an Indian name that means shallow waters - associated with the Nobel Prize was a thrill for Pugwashians. "This is the biggest thing that has bappened to ever Pugwash." town council leader Harold Patterson, 63, told the Norwegian News Agency NTB by tele-

Japanese who played dead arrested

MANILA (AP) - Police

have arrested a Japanese

businessman who faked his

death so his family in Japan could collect his insurance, police said Saturday. Senior investigator Ocampo said Takesbi Mori, a 47-year-old used car salesman from Osaka in western Japan, was arrested in the home of his Filipino wife in suburban Valenzuela, In Japan, police said they had searched several locations for evidence later Saturday, including the bome of Mr. Mori's Japanese wife, Kayoko, 44, and his eldest son, 19, in the Izumi district of Osaka. They also uestioned the two. In the Philippines, Mr. Mori will be charged with faking public documents. Mr. Ocampo said that last Jan. 9. Mr. Mori's Japanese visiting the Philippines, reported that he was missing. On the same day, a dead man resembling Mr. Mori was found floating in Manila Bay. A son of Mr. Mori, identified as Ritsu, who also was visiting, claimed that a watch and ring found on the cadaver belonged to his father and identified the body. It was cremated and brought to Japan, where Mr. Mori's family later applied to collect a still unspecified amount of insurance. No other identity for the body bas been established, but last September, the Japanese embassy had requested a discreet investigation because of doubts about Mr. Mori's supposed death, The embassy said it could not issue a death certificate on Mr. Mori because the family had already cremated the body before the embassy could inspect it. Surveillance of Mr. Mori's supposed Filipino widow showed that a Japanese. man with the same features as Mr. Mori was still living

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Elias Hrawi

However, effective opposition rapidly melted away after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made clear last week that Syria backs the proposal.

Many politicians : d members of parliament hurnedly queued to pay their respects to Mr. Hrawi at his palace and newspapers said around 100 of the 128 deputies would

The amendment will authorise a one-off threeyear extension for Mr. Hrawi. Newspapers said he was insisting on being consulted by the cabinet and parliament on the text of their petitions to him to stay on, saying they must list his achievements and

vote for the proposal.

say why he should remain.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany honours controversial orientalist

FRANKFURT, Germany (R)"- German President Roman Herzog on Sunday defended a controversial orientalist under fire for her views on British author Salman Rushdie and honoured her for promoting understanding between Muslims and Christians. Wading into a debate about freedom of speech and political correctness, Mr. Herzog praised Annemarie Schimmel, 73, as a builder of bridges among cultures at a ceremony in Frankfurt awarding her the prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. "We cannot live together in the long run if we do not talk with each other and know nothing of one another," be said. 'Annemarie Schimmel has paved the way for this in our relations with Islam and shown us how to build paths to other cultures." More than 200 intellectuals had protested against ber nomination to receive the award, accusing her of supporting a death sentence that Iran passed on Mr. Rushdie for alleged blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammad in his novel the Satanic Verses.

Gulf to save Arabian leopard from extinction

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Wildfire experts from four Gulf states met in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday to discuss measures to save the endangered Arabian leopard from extinction, organisers said. The two-day seminar in Sharjah brought together delegates from the UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen as well as representatives from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. They were discussing the causes of the Arabian leopard's decline and measures that could be taken to prevent its extinction, the Sharjah-based Arabian Leopard Trust (ALT) said in a statement. Officials said it was the first workshop in the region to be devoted entirely to the Arabian leopard.

Greece formally lifts Macedonia embargo

GEVGELIJA (AP) — Greece on Saturday formally ended an 18-month embargo against Macedonia. opening its border with its impoverished landlocked northern neighbours. But there was little traffic in either direction on this border crossing, 120 kilometres southeast of the Macedonian capital Skopje, as an agreement to end the embargo took effect. On Saturday, only those Macedonians with official invitations from Greek authorities were allowed nto Greece, Macedonian police said. Several cars with Macedonian licence plates were turned back by Greek customs officials. Greece agreed to open its border after Macedonia last week changed its flag to modify an ancient Greek symbol, the 16-pointed star of Vergina, and declared its constitution does not imply claims on Greek

British minister assails Iran, Iraq

MANAMA (AP) - Britain's armed forces minister has accused Iran of "causing mischief" in the region, and stressed the need for a collective Gulf security force, the Al Hayat daily reported Sunday. The Arabic-language newspaper quoted Nicholas Soames as saying at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretariat in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, that Iran was a "very destabilising force" in the region. Speaking Saturday, he said a collective security force by the six nations of the GCC — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain - was an "important initiative." Al Hayat reported. It quoted soames as saying Britain had been "a long-standing supplier of high-class equipment" to Saudi Arabia, and interested in supplying Challenger 2 tanks to

Mubarak sends more Brotherhood members for trial by military court

CAIRO (Agencies) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered on Sunday a second trial of 27 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood group before a military court, legal sources said. The 27 were arrested over

the past few weeks, chiefamong them Abdul menem Abdul Fattoh, former head of the medical union and one of the 150 Brothers running as a candidate in legislative elections set for Nov. 29.

The Muslim Brotherhood said the current head of the scientists union, Al Sayed Abdul Sitar Al Miligi, as well as a number of other union figures and parliament candidates, were also among those

Police who arrested the 27 accused them of "seeking to" finance the terrorist group Al Gamaa Islamiyah for attacks in Minya province" in south Egypt, the legal sources said. The announcement comes

on the heels of a first military trial of 49 Brotherhood members which caused a storm of condemnations from human rights group when it started

The 49 Brotherhood mem-

bers, who include union figures, former deputies and an official from the religious authority Al Azhar, have been charged with "directing an illegal organisation aiming to impede the rule of law and

constitution." Controversy has focused on Mr. Mubarak's decision to try them before a military tribunal, which usually considers cases connected to militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused of planning "terrorism" or "vio-

Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood has been tolerated by the government since the mid-1970s when it said it foreswore violence in its bid to create Islamic rule in

Egypt.
But the truce came to an end last year when Mr. Mubarak accused the group of being behind armed extremist groups seeking to overthrow his government.

Dozens of arrests followed. The Egyptian government came under attack from Sudan's top Islamic leader Hassan Al Tourabi for putting the Muslim fundamentalists on trial.

Dr. Tourabi, who wields considerable influence in Sudan although he holds no official post in the government, was quoted on state radio describing the trials as unjust. He said the trials "are only going to prompt tens of thousands of Egyptians to confront the regime and raise the flag of Islam.

"The charges against the Islamists are baseless as those on trial are trade unionists, scholars and leaders who have not gone on strike, taken part in demonstrations or moved against the govern-ment," Dr. Tourabi was quoted as saying.

The trials, Dr. Tourabi said, were arranged by the Egyptian government to prevent the Islamists from running and winning any vote in next month's parliamentary elections.

Suspects to be tried

An Egyptian military court will try in absentia the "mastermind" of the June assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, legal sources said on Sunday.

Paris carbomb 'unlinked' to earlier guerrilla blasts

PARIS (R) - French offi- jured more than 140. cials tried on Sunday to play down public concern that a crude car bomb blast in the northern outskirts of Paris was linked to recent attacks by suspected Algerian extremists.

But France's main police union, worried about a surge in domestic violence, urged President Jacques Chirac to scrap planned talks with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to avoid the impression of siding with his militarybacked government.

The burning stolen car, parked in suburban Le Blanc-Mesnil, blew up early on Saturday when the fire ignited a fully charged camping gas canister that had been placed on a seat,

Four police officers who had rushed to the scene after an anonymous telephone call were slightly hurt by the explosion.

Official sources said the inquiry into the blast would be led by local police rather than the anti-terrorist squad. which saw no direct links between the incident and seven bombs planted in France since July which have killed seven people and in-

The owner of the car. Arthur Fonseca, said there had been no gas canister in the car when he last saw it. Many of the bombs in France have been packed in hollowed-out gas canisters loaded with explosives and nails and bolts to maximise damage.

Jean-Louis Arajol, head of the general police union, said criminals were foresaking low-level violence such as stone-throwing to imitate guerrilla methods. "Today terrorist acts dominate over every form of violence," he

"There was the intention of killing police officers. It's obvious... it was an ambush," he told France-Info radio. But it said later that a prosecutor had identified the person who made the call and that it did not seem to be a

Mr. Arajol said Mr. Chirac gave the impression of backing Mr. Zeroual by announcing he would meet him in New York weeks before a Nov. 16 presidential election in which Mr. Zeroual is a candidate.

The number of Coptic voters is unknown, hui "they will make the difference in the elections and they have a lot of weight in Cairo. Alexandria and south Egypt." he told AFP.

The elections also have an international angle. For the first time, the 18,000 bedouins in the southern border zone of Halaib will vote. Halaih is claimed by both Egypt and Sudan.

S. Africa seeks to recover Winnie's cars

TOWN, South

Wednesday.

CAPE

there. They arrested him

Africa (AP) - Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of President Nelson Mandela, is in hot water — again. The South African government has instructed state prosecutors to take all legal steps necessary to recover two of Mrs. Mandela's cars and a cellular phone that are state property. Mrs. Mandela lost her rights to the cars and phone in April when her husband fired her as deputy minister for arts, culture, science and technology for making an unauthorised trip.

Egypt slated for heated legislative elections

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt is set for a heated campaign in legislative elections slated for November 29 when the opposition will participate for the first time in eight vears.

Even though President Hosni Mubarak only announced the date of elections on Saturday and no runners have been officially registered, candidates' banners were already strung across Cairo streets by the evening,

Opposition party newspapers have begun lauding their nominees and launched a debate on the integrity of elections. which they say the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP)

has skewed in the past. The attention is in stark contrast to the last vote in 1990, which passed all but unnoticed. All opposition panies except the Marxists boycotted the poll and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait distracted the public's attention.

The liberal Wafd Party and the officially banned Muslim Brotherhood look set to be the main competition to Mr. Mubarak's NDP. which is however not expected to lose its majority in parliament.

"If the elections are free and if the government remains impartial and guarantees a vote without fraud. we expect some very nice surprises." the secretary general of the Wafd. Saad Fakhri Abdul Nur. told

"Even if the government does put pressure (on voters), the Wafd will get hetween 20 and 25 per cent" of the 444 seats that are up The Wafd will put for-ward "at least 350 candidates" in the 222 voting districts, each of which gets two representatives in the

People's Assembly.
The opposition has demanded guarantee for clean elections, including international observers, accusing the government of forging votes and barring opposition candidates from staterun radio and television.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki, quoted in the government daily Al Ahram on Saturday, retorted that "elections will be 100 per cent free,

"Mubarak is very concerned that elections take place in a democratic atmosphere. All guarantees known to democratic states will be assured," he said. Parliamentary Speaker

Fathi Surur ruled out international observers, telling the state news agency MENA that bringing them in would be "unconstitu-The Muslim Brotherhood

will field 150 candidates and

hope to take a third of the

seats, the group's deputy

head Mustapha Mashhur said. The Progressive Unionist Rally (Marxistl, which won 10 parliament seats in 1990. announced it would put for-

ward 41 candidates. "The small number is due to a lack of funds." party head Khaled Mohieddin told MENA.

The Nasserists will field 45 candidates, party sources said.

Mr. Mohieddin, whose party has come out strongly against the Brotherhood underlined that "religious slogans must be kept out of elections. The party is against mixing religions into electoral politics.

But Egypt's estimated six million Christians stand to be an important voting bloc in November. The church 'encourages its followers to register for elections but without intervening in their political choices. spokesman Talaat Gadallah said.